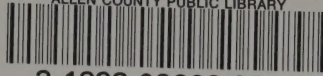


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A
MILITARY
HISTORY OF
MINNESOTA



VIRGINIA BRAINARD KUNZ

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**MUSKETS
TO
MISSILES**

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**A
MILITARY
HISTORY OF
MINNESOTA**

By
VIRGINIA BRAINARD KUNZ

Published By
MINNESOTA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

ST. PAUL 1958

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*To all the men and women from Minnesota who served
in the armed forces of their country, this history is
gratefully dedicated.*

PREFACE

Minnesotans always have been proud of their fighting men and their sturdy willingness to take up arms.

Minnesota grew up around Fort Snelling, the little frontier outpost which brought civilization to this area. Minnesota was the first state of the Union to offer troops at the outbreak of the Civil War, A Minnesota regiment, the First Minnesota, participated in one of history's most courageous feats of arms in its famous charge at Gettysburg.

Minnesota was the battleground when the Indians began their last great stand against the white men in the Sioux Uprising of 1862-3, and it was also the scene of what probably was the Indians' last skirmish with the whites, at Leech Lake in 1898.

Minnesota men fought in the Philippines and at San Juan Hill in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. They patrolled the Mexican border and they fought in France during World War I, the guns of the famous 151st Field Artillery firing almost continuously for four long months.

Minnesotans fired America's first shot in World War II when a gun crew on a destroyer sank a Japanese submarine off the channel entrance to Pearl Harbor as the attack on Pearl Harbor was beginning.

The 34th Division, of which the Minnesota National Guard was a part, was the first American division to be ordered to Europe in World War II and when the troops arrived in North Ireland, the first GI to step ashore was from Hutchinson.

In defeat, too, Minnesotans stirred their nation. The 34th Tank Company from Brainerd helped cover the tragic retreat into Bataan in the Philippines and lost two-thirds of its men in battle, in the infamous "death march" and in Japanese prison camps.

It seemed appropriate, therefore, as the state celebrates its 100th birthday, that the story of these and thousands upon thousands of other brave Minnesota men and women be told.

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CHAPTER I

FORTIFYING THE FRONTIER

Since the day almost 300 years ago when white men first set foot on Minnesota soil, Minnesota's history has been inextricably bound up with military affairs.

From the earliest days, fortified posts were built in the wilderness to protect explorer and trader, missionary and soldier. First to come, in the 18th Century, were the French. Dreaming of establishing a western empire, they built a series of forts in what now is Minnesota. Among them were Isle Pelee, now Prairie Island, nine miles south of Hastings; Fort L'Huillier on the Blue Earth River; Fort Beauharnois at Frontenac and Fort St. Charles in the Northwest Angle.

But in 1763 the French, having lost the French and Indian War, ceded to the British their possessions east of the Mississippi. They, in turn, having lost the Revolutionary War in 1783, relinquished this territory to the infant United States.

Twenty years later the section of Minnesota west of the Mississippi came into the possession of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. And thus began the history of Minnesota's military affairs.

First came Lt. Zebulon M. Pike, who at 26 already had served 11 years with the United States Army. He had been ordered by Gen. James Wilkinson, commanding officer at St. Louis, Mo., "to proceed up the Mississippi with all possible diligence." Pike set off late in the afternoon of Friday, August 9, 1805, in a 70-foot keel boat. With him were one sergeant, two corporals, 17 privates and provisions for four months.

Pike's expedition was a result of the vision of Thomas Jefferson who long had had a deep interest in the western frontier. For 20 years he had promoted the settlement of the west and proposed plans for creating 14 to 16 new states west of the Alleghenies.

As president, he had eagerly grasped the chance to buy the vast Louisiana Territory despite opposition from congress. Already he had dispatched Lewis and Clark on their famous expedition up the Missouri River and across the Rockies to the Pacific.

Pike's expedition was a portion of Jefferson's larger plan for exploration built around the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Jefferson needed information about the upper Mississippi valley region. Among the most important was the location of the source of the great river. The 1783 Treaty of Paris, which ended the Revolutionary War, described a boundary between the United States and the British possessions to the north. The line was based on Mitchell's map of North America which vaguely located the Mississippi's source as somewhere in what is now Manitoba.

The treaty provided that the boundary should run straight west from the northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods to the Mississippi and gave Great Britain the right of navigation on the Mississippi. As soon as this geographical error became apparent, the British held fast to much of northern Minnesota. British traders stayed in the area, encouraged the Indians to remain loyal to the British king and provoked hostility to the United States to keep American traders from the area.

Pike had been ordered to follow the Mississippi to its source, to examine the geography and resources of the area, to record the "population and residence" of the Indians and to seek sites favorable for construction of American military posts. The explorers were to make friendly contacts with the Indian tribes who were to be told that their good father and friend was President Jefferson in Washington and not King George in London.

On September 4, after a voyage of almost a month, Pike passed Prairie du Chien, the northernmost American fort on the river. He changed to two bateaux, flat-bottomed boats with tapered ends, and proceeded up the river, through Lake Pepin to the point where the Minnesota--then called the St. Peters River--empties into the Mississippi. On September 21, he made camp on the west side of the large island there which now bears his name.

In late afternoon the next day, 150 Sioux arrived to see what the white men were up to. They had given up a raid on the Chippewa to satisfy their curiosity about the explorers. Little Crow, grandfather of the Little Crow who led the Sioux Uprising of 1862, was head of the party.

In a council meeting, Pike rose and exhorted the Sioux to make peace with the Chippewa, stated the purpose of his expedition and asked the Indians to sell two tracts of land which, in his opinion, were suitable sites for army forts. One was an area nine miles square at the mouth of the St. Croix and the other was an area extending nine miles on each side of the Mississippi from below the mouth of the Mississippi River to a point above the

Falls of St. Anthony.

Pike gave the Indians 60 gallons of whiskey and \$200.00 worth of presents in payment for the land. The exact acreage of the sites was not known until the land was surveyed in the 1830s, but when Pike's treaty was ratified by the United States senate in 1808, a senate committee estimated that about 155,520 acres had been purchased for approximately 1.28 cents an acre. Another \$2,000.00 worth of goods was paid to the Indians in 1819.

Pike and his men continued up the Mississippi, passing the Falls of St. Anthony by a portage on the east bank. Above the falls the going was difficult, and the men often had to wade into the icy water to drag their boats over the swift rapids and shoals.

In mid-October, a heavy snowstorm caught them near Little Falls where they stopped and built a small stockade at Pike Rapids. This was to serve as their base through the winter.

Pike's little fort, typical of many hastily built wilderness stockades, consisted of a log house 40 feet square enclosed by pickets. From here he explored the snow-covered country by sledge and toboggan ("trainaux de glace").

In January and February he visited the Sandy Lake and Leech Lake trading posts of the Northwest Company which had been formed in 1787 by a group of Canadian merchants of Scottish descent. This journey was full of hardship for Pike and his men. Mild weather had lasted into December and the lakes and rivers did not freeze. Pike's band had to struggle through melting snow and thin ice that broke under the weight of the sledges. His ammunition and baggage often were dumped into the water. Then the weather turned cold and Pike's men suffered frozen noses, fingers and toes. One bitter night, Pike's tent burned down. There were other hardships, and after a journey of almost a month, he finally stumbled late one night into the Sandy Lake Post.

By the time he arrived at Leech Lake, February 1, Pike's legs and ankles were so swollen he could not get into his clothes. Here the young lieutenant who had only a small band of explorers under his command, sat down and wrote a lengthy letter to Hugh McGillis, chief British agent at Fond du Lac.

The letter shows both audacity and a fine sense of diplomacy. Politely but firmly, Pike told McGillis that the British flag no longer must fly over posts on American soil and that customs duties must be paid on British goods entering American territory. In an equally courteous reply, McGillis promised, in so far as he could, that he and his men would respect the terms in Pike's letter.



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Lt. Zebulon Pike visits Crow Wing county in December, 1805. With him are his Indian guide, Corporal Bradley and Pierre Rousseau, interpreter. Painted for Brainerd High School by Sarah Thorp Heald.

To impress the Indians and to symbolize enforcement of the Treaty of 1783, Pike and his men shot down the British flag flying over the Leech Lake post. Some days later he met Chipewewa chiefs and warriors in council and induced them to part with their medals bearing the image of King George III of England and to accept American medals with Jefferson's likeness.

Pike was convinced from his explorations that Leech Lake was the chief source of the Mississippi and that Upper Red Cedar Lake, now called Cass Lake, was the upper source.

In the spring when the ice went out of the Mississippi, Pike returned to St. Louis, completing a journey of nearly nine months. He had erred by about 30 miles in locating the source of the river. He also had failed to win over the Indians who remained loyal to the British and hostile to the Americans. But he did negotiate the Treaty of 1805 by which the United States acquired the land on which Fort Snelling was built. This accomplishment stands today as the most important result of his expedition. Promoted to captain, Pike later explored the central Rockies and left his name on a mountain peak in Colorado. He rose to the rank of brigadier general and was killed during the War of 1812 at

York, now Toronto, Canada.

Early defeats during this war resulted in the loss of the United State's advanced posts at Mackinac, Green Bay, Prairie du Chien, and Fort Dearborn. After Gen. William H. Harrison defeated the British and Indian forces at the Battle of the Thames, however, the posts were regained.

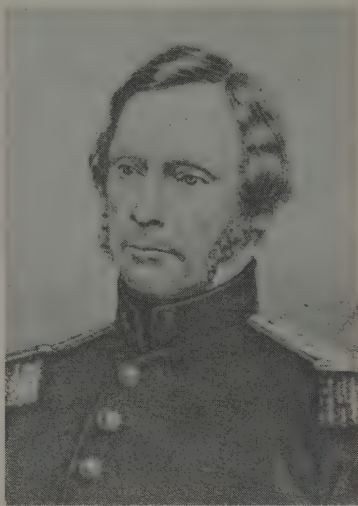
With the signing of the Treaty of Ghent ending the war, John C. Calhoun, secretary of war, and an advisory board of army officers, began to plan the extension of American occupation and control into the upper Mississippi region. They wanted to end British influence in this area and divert fur trade profits into American pockets. They knew that both trade and eventual settlement could be established only under the protecting banners of the army. Calhoun and his board planned to build three new forts, one near the Falls of St. Anthony, one on the lower Missouri River and one near the mouth of the Yellowstone River. The last did not materialize but Fort Atkinson was built on the Missouri near where Omaha now stands.

Peace treaties had been concluded with the Indians in 1815, the Sioux agreeing at Portage des Sioux, near St. Louis, to recognize the president of the United States as their Great Father. In 1816 Prairie du Chien was occupied by four companies of United States Army infantry. The old fort was renamed Fort Crawford in honor of the secretary of the treasury.

In 1817, Calhoun ordered Maj. Stephen H. Long, of the corps of geographical engineers, into the upper Mississippi region to examine the two tracts Pike had purchased from the Sioux in 1805 and recommend which would be more suitable as the site for an army post.

Long left St. Louis in the summer and made a fast trip upriver. He traveled in a six-oared skiff and reached the Falls of St. Anthony July 16, seven days after leaving Prairie du Chien. He reported to Calhoun that both sites were satisfactory but the Minnesota River location would be better. Accordingly, Maj. Gen. Brown, commander of the Division of the North, ordered the Fifth United States Infantry stationed at Detroit to make a western expedition. Lt. Col. Henry Leavenworth, a former Indian agent for the northwestern territory, had been assigned to the Fifth Infantry the previous year.

Leavenworth was ordered to proceed through Lake Huron and Lake Michigan and cross Wisconsin by the Fox-Wisconsin route to Prairie du Chien. Portions of his regiment were to be detached



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Lt. Zebulon M. Pike

Maj. Stephen H. Long

for garrison duty at Fort Crawford and Fort Armstrong at Rock Island. Leavenworth and the remainder of his regiment were to travel to the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers where he was to build a new fort.

Leavenworth arrived at the site on August 24, 1819, 18 days after he left Prairie du Chien. Almost half of his 98 men were sick when he arrived at his destination. Although the trip had been short, the men were not accustomed to the hardships of river travel during a very warm summer. Their drinking water was bad, they slept out in dew-soaked grass to avoid being devoured by mosquitoes and they had little rest because the nights were short.

Selecting a spot on the south bank of the Minnesota River, near the present Mendota, Leavenworth set his men to building temporary log huts to house them through the winter. By September, after the arrival of recruits, he had approximately 200 men under his command. By winter the cantonment was finished. That winter of 1819-20, however, marked the outbreak of a virulent form of scurvy and 40 died. The disease was so widespread that there were scarcely enough men to care for the sick. The stricken soldiers sometimes died in a matter of hours.

The outbreak of the disease was blamed on St. Louis contractors who lightened their barrels of pork by drawing off the brine before the journey upriver then refilled them with water from the river just before reaching Leavenworth's post. The



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Maj. Lawrence Taliaferro

Col. Josiah Snelling

outbreak finally was put down by use of vinegar brought from Prairie du Chien.

With the arrival of spring, the men established Camp Coldwater, their summer camp quarters, at Coldwater Springs on the north side of the Minnesota River. Leavenworth selected a site for the permanent fort and early in the summer the men began to collect building materials. The soldiers did all the work, cutting hardwood on the military reservation and pine logs on the Rum River and floating them down the Mississippi. All the lumber was sawed by hand.

That summer, a detachment from the camp on the Missouri, later known as Fort Atkinson, arrived at Camp Coldwater after a futile search for a useable military route across Iowa and southern Minnesota.

(In 1835 the same journey was made again by a detachment commanded by Stephen W. Kearney who had been a member of the first expedition. Kearney later served as a colonel in the Mexican War, commanded the army which occupied New Mexico and marched into southern California.)

Work on the new fort had barely begun when on July 25, 1820, Col. Josiah Snelling arrived to relieve Leavenworth as commander of the Fifth Infantry. Snelling was 38 years old, a native of Massachusetts who had entered the army in 1808 and had served bravely in the War of 1812. He was in command for seven years and



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Fort Snelling in 1844. This painting by J. C. Wild is now in the office of the director of the Minnesota Historical Society. Pike island is shown in the foreground with the Minnesota River to left and the Mississippi to right.

“infused system and energy among men and officers”.

On the recommendation of Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott, the fort, at first called Fort St. Anthony, was renamed Fort Snelling in recognition of Snelling's exceptional performance of duty.

Col. Snelling altered slightly the plan for the new fort and selected a site, some slight distance from that designated by Leavenworth. The location of the fort was picturesque and beautiful. It stood on the brow of the bluff where the two rivers joined. Higher land lay a short distance away but Snelling knew that attack could come only from hostile Indians and they possessed no artillery.

Snelling laid out the fort in a diamond shape, following the contours of the site, in the angle formed by the junction of the rivers.

Of the old fort, the round tower, a hexagonal tower on the bluff, the commandant's house and the officer's quarters (though remodeled) still remain. The foundations of many other old buildings are being uncovered and the hope is that all of the old fort eventually may be restored. The first structures were wood. Later they were replaced by stone and eventually surrounded by a high

stone wall. Work on the fortifications proceeded slowly. On September 10, 1820, the cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremony and the construction, which was to last for the next half-dozen years, began. Again, labor was done by the soldiers who, according to one inspecting officer, were more familiar with work than with military drill. Regular army pay for privates at that time was \$5.00 per month and the men received 15 cents per day in extra wages for work on the fort.

Cost to the government for building the fort, Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott reported after an inspection trip there in 1824, was only the amount paid for tools and iron and the soldiers' pay.

A great quantity of wood was needed for the buildings, more than could easily be cut by hand with whipsaw and broadax, so a sawmill was built at the Falls of St. Anthony. The neighboring "Little Falls", now called Minnehaha Falls, would have been a more convenient site and actually was under consideration but the creek was so low during the summer of 1820 that Snelling felt it was impractical to build a mill there.

During the winter of 1822-23, the garrison moved into the fort. It is no exaggeration to say the state of Minnesota has developed with Fort Snelling as the nucleus. The United States Army, representing the United States government, arrived first in the area that was to become Minnesota, and the army remained the symbol of the government's authority throughout the region. Here also the first church services were held and the first school was taught. The fort was the meeting place for explorers and traders and afforded protection to the missionaries.

When the triangular area between the Mississippi and the St. Croix Rivers was opened for settlement after the Treaty of 1837 with the Indian tribes, the Territory of Wisconsin established civil government in that area east of the Mississippi but the army continued to support law and order in the Indian lands to the west. This situation lasted until 1849 when congress established the Territory of Minnesota and the Treaties of Mendota and Traverse des Sioux in 1851 opened the lands of the Sioux to settlement.

Life at Fort Snelling during the early years was monotonous and hard, particularly for the men. When the long day of labor and drill was over, there was little for them to do. A hunting paradise lay just beyond their doors but so did the dangers of the wilderness.

The normal garrison during the early 1820s consisted of six companies and headquarters--about 300 men. Each company averaged 40 to 50 men. The soldiers cultivated the land around

the fort. Each officer, each company and each employee had a garden.

Col. Snelling brought in oxen, cows and horses and also experimented with raising wheat. A gristmill was built near the sawmill in 1823. But after threshing, the wheat unfortunately became moldy and made a bitter-tasting black bread which the men refused to eat. In protest they brought the bread out to the parade ground and threw it on the ground.

Soup and bread were the required daily rations and salt pork also was a staple of their diet. According to army specifications, the bread had to be three days old and toasted since fresh bread was believed to be dangerous to eat. Whiskey was a regular part of the army ration until 1823 and the men were allowed a gill (four ounces) daily.

The handful of white women at the fort, for the most part, were officer's wives and they labored heroically to bring a bit of civilization to the frontier. Their homes had but two rooms. The commandant's quarters had four. Kitchens and pantries of all were in the cellar.

Gradually life at the fort became more settled and organized. The long winter months were brightened by such social events as balls, where quadrilles and waltzes were danced to tunes played by whatever musicians could be found among soldier and settler.

Officers wore knee-length blue frock coats, white trousers and red sashes. In houses heated only by fireplaces, the women shivered in low-cut gowns, even with shawls wrapped about their shoulders. The air was frigid only a few feet away from the fire. By the 1830s, stoves had arrived.

In warm weather, picnics and excursions were made by horse and wagon to the Falls of St. Anthony. A soldier was sent ahead to build a fire and start dinner, usually served in the middle of the afternoon. The return trip often was by way of Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet.

Life at the frontier post could be colorful, with the presence of Indians and dashing French voyageurs, but it was lonely too. Mail was a particular problem, not only for the men far away from their families but also for the post command. All mail came up the river from Prairie du Chien and long months would pass before military reports and orders could be dispatched and received.

For 30 years, the United States Army at Fort Snelling performed services of the greatest value. The army supported and

protected a number of expeditions which explored the region gathering information about resources and geography.

Some of this exploration was done directly by the army. In 1823 the war department sent Maj. Stephen H. Long back to Minnesota. His orders directed him to ascend the Minnesota River, descend the Red River of the North and explore northern waters from Lake of the Woods through the Rainy River and Rainy Lake to Lake Superior. Long's party included a detachment of soldiers and several scientists. They traveled by canoe and overland with the explorers on horseback and the soldiers on foot.

Prof. William H. Keating of the University of Pennsylvania was geologist and mineralogist and his later account of the expedition was of great value. Long planted a large wooden marker on the 49th parallel at Pembina, marking the boundary between the United States and Canada.

Many of the cabins of the Selkirk settlement there proved to be on American soil. This was a settlement founded in 1811 by the Scottish Earl of Selkirk who controlled the Hudson Bay Company. Made up of poor families of Scotch or Swiss origin, it was the first permanent civilized settlement in what is now Minnesota.

Another type of exploration was carried on by government officials who operated with war department permission and traveled with military escort for protection against hostile Indians. Most important of these was the 1820 expedition of Gov. Cass of Michigan. Cass and a party of 38, including seven soldiers explored the Lake Superior region to gather information on mineral deposits. Capt. David B. Douglass, an engineer officer, performed the topographical and geodetic work and Henry R. Schoolcraft was mineralogist.

Cass agreed with Zebulon Pike's earlier theory that the lake now called Cass Lake was the upper source of the Mississippi. However, this information was no longer of diplomatic importance since in 1818 the 49th parallel had been accepted by Great Britain and the United States as the boundary line between the Lake of the Woods and the Rocky Mountains.

Ten years later Schoolcraft, then in the Indian service, was authorized by both Cass and the war department to return to the area, chiefly to persuade the Sioux and Chippewa to end their warfare.

In 1832 Schoolcraft was back again, accompanied by the missionary, the Rev. William T. Boutwell and Lt. James Allen, who commanded the military escort. Schoolcraft, under the guid-

ance of a Chippewa called Ozawindib or the Yellow Head, explored the infant Mississippi to its source in Lac La Biche (Elk Lake). He renamed it Lake Itasca.

Other exploring parties, though they were official representatives of the war department, traveled with a civilian in command accompanied by military escort. In 1834 one of these parties explored the Coteau des Prairies, a series of plateaus in southwestern Minnesota and South Dakota, under the command of George William Featherstonehaugh, an Englishman who was the United States geologist. Lt. William W. Mather commanded the army escort.

In 1836 Joseph Nicollet arrived with letters from the war department directing all commanding officers and Indian agents to help him organize an expedition to map the upper Mississippi valley and adjacent areas.

Nicollet spent three days at Lake Itasca making detailed studies. He found five creeks in the area, the largest of which, he reported, "is truly the infant Mississippi." Secretary of War, Joel R. Poinsett, later placed him on the war department payroll so he could complete his maps and reports.

Other persons of importance, including the artist, George Catlin, and the writer, Capt. Frederick Marryat, also enjoyed the hospitality, advice and protection of army personnel at Fort Snelling. Others who came to the fort on journeys of inspection were high-ranking officers, including Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott and Zachary Taylor, future president of the United States who also served briefly as fort commandant.

In the early days of Fort Snelling, the only civilized inhabitants of the land that was to become Minnesota were connected with the army, the American Fur Company or the United States Indian agency. A few Scotch and Swiss settlers who moved south from the Pembina settlement in the Red River valley also had been permitted to become squatters on land in the military reservation.

The fur company had been organized in 1808 by John Jacob Astor. In charge of the company's post in the upper Mississippi region at Mendota was Henry Hastings Sibley, a native of Michigan, who was appointed to the Minnesota post in 1834. He built the stone house in Mendota that is a museum today.

Maj. Lawrence Taliaferro was in charge of the Indian agency established to regulate the fur trade and safeguard the welfare and interests of the Indians. Taliaferro, a Virginian, was a friend of President Monroe and was selected by the president for the

post. Taliaferro had been a first lieutenant in the Third United States Infantry but was appointed to the Indian Agency as a civilian. All Indian agents were given a courtesy title of "major."

Taliaferro and Sibley, both civilians, could function successfully only with the protection and help of the fort. Taliaferro, particularly, worked closely with Col. Snelling and the other commandants, and for 20 years he was the most important civilian official in the area.

His duties were to keep the Indian tribes loyal to the United States and friendly toward any white men who might be in the country, to help them take the first steps away from their ancient mode of living and into the paths leading toward a civilized society, to protect them from unscrupulous fur traders, and especially to bring about peaceful relations between Sioux and Chippewa. These tribes had carried on a bloody feud since the 18th Century when the invading Chippewa had defeated the Sioux and driven them from their ancient lands in northern Minnesota.

Taliaferro conducted the affairs of his office with notable success. In an era when most Indian agents were in the pay of the American Fur Company, he was incorruptible. In attempting to keep peace between Chippewa and Sioux, he held numerous councils which ended with solemn promises of good behavior from both tribes. Sometimes, however, the truce lasted only a few hours.

In a conference at Prairie du Chien, in 1825, Taliaferro finally persuaded the Indians to agree to a Sioux-Chippewa line extending diagonally from the St. Croix River to the Red River of the North and passing not far from the modern cities of St. Cloud, Alexandria, and Fergus Falls. The Chippewa promised to stay north of this line and the Sioux south. However, the bloody warfare still did not end until after the Sioux War of 1862 when the Sioux bands were removed from Minnesota.

Sibley's post at Mendota was the American Fur Company's major headquarters for Minnesota trade. It was not fortified, as were the company's other posts, because it was located so close to Fort Snelling. The American company had taken over the posts of the British Northwest Company in 1818, and some of the British had stayed to work for the Americans.

Many secretly retained their British loyalties, however. This same allegiance also prevailed among the Indians who observed that the British traders preferred to keep the forests and prairies in their original state to perpetuate the fur trade, while the Americans, foreseeing an early end to the trade, considered themselves



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Little Crow's village at Kaposia, now part of St. Paul Park, in 1848. Here the leader of the Sioux Uprising lived before moving to the Sioux reservation in western Minnesota.

advance agents of settlement. The Indians knew that the coming of the farmers would end forever the ancient way of tribal life. Indian agents undertook the difficult task of inducing the Indians to learn new, strange skills to prepare for the inevitable, vast change to come.

Efforts were made by the Indian agent to regulate the sale of liquor to Indians and soldiers alike. Military searches of trader's boats for liquor frequently were necessary.

During this early frontier period, the army maintained a type of military organization that long since has passed out of existence. These troops were dragoon-soldiers who were mounted and armed with carbines. Unlike the regular cavalry, the saber was not a part of their equipment. Dragoons were considered well adapted for dealing with hostile Indians and detachments operated in the Minnesota country a number of times.

One of these was the Pope Expedition, named for Brevet Capt. John Pope who was topographical officer. The expedition traveled from Sauk Rapids to Pembina in the summer of 1849. Commanding officer was Brevet Maj. Samuel Woods of the Sixth United States Infantry. Company D of the First United States

Dragoons, consisting of 40 men under the command of First Lt. J. W. T. Gardiner, escorted the expedition. The expedition had been organized to restrain British traders from dealing with the Indians south of the 49th parallel, to prevent Canadian half-breeds from invading the Sioux lands and killing buffalo there, to mark the international boundary in the Pembina district and to recommend a location for a military post on the Red River of the North.

The expedition was hampered by swollen rivers, violent thunder storms and mosquitoes. Its leaders recommended a site for a fort between the Wild Rice and Red Rivers, not far from the spot where Fort Abercrombie was built eight years later.

By the late 1830s, the army at Fort Snelling had an increasing number of settlers to protect. Missionaries had begun their work with the Indians. Samuel and Gideon Pond were the first to work among the Sioux. They carried on their duties with the permission of the fort commandant, and their first cabin, at Lake Calhoun, was near the watchful eyes at the fort.

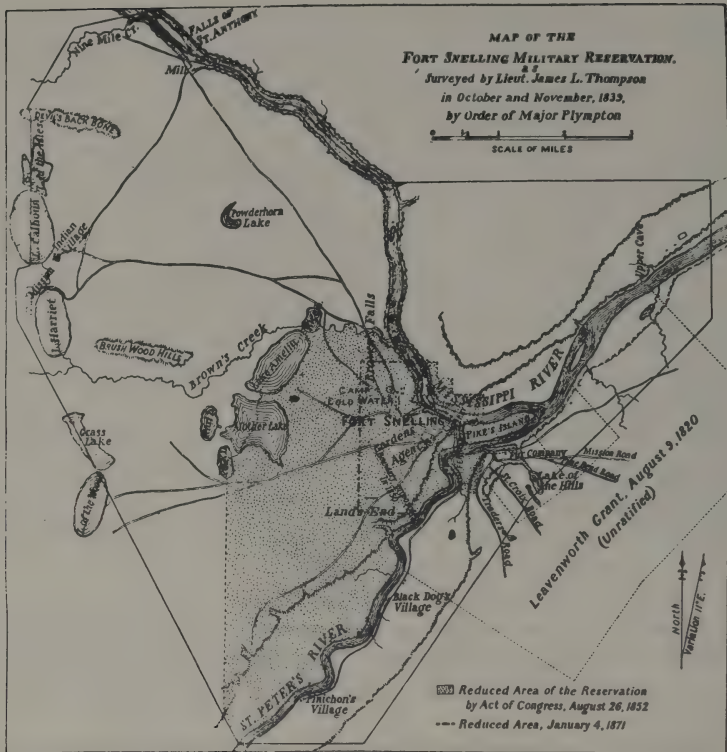
There also were the families from the Selkirk settlement who were living on the military reservation. All other land was still considered Indian country and only the fur traders would have been able to exist in this area had it not been for army protection.

In 1837, a treaty with the Chippewa at Mendota and the Sioux at Washington opened for settlement a triangular tract between the Mississippi and the St. Croix Rivers and extending north to an east-west line through Mille Lacs Lake. This treaty often has been referred to as a lumberman's treaty because it led at once to extensive development of the lumber industry in the St. Croix valley with Stillwater as the center.

It also opened a sad chapter in the relationship between army and civilians in the area. Maj. Joseph Plympton, fort commandant when the treaty was signed, was particularly hostile to the families which had been allowed to settle in the shadow of the fort in the belief that the land, under the Pike treaty, was part of the public domain.

Now Plympton declared that a large military reservation, embracing some of the lands opened for settlement along the St. Croix, was to be created, and all citizens not connected with the army would be considered trespassers and would have to move.

He had a number of good reasons, however, for this order. For one, the sale of whiskey to the soldiers, by such men as Pierre



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Map of Fort Snelling reservation. Black line shows area ordered surveyed by Maj. Plympton in 1839. Dotted area shows reduced size of reservation ordered by congress in 1852 and dotted black line shows further reduction in size ordered in 1871 after settlement of Franklin Steele's claims.

"Pig's Eye" Parrant, was reaching alarming proportions and drunkenness among the troops was a serious problem. On a single night, 47 men were in the guardhouse for drunkenness.

Another reason for the edict was that the Fort faced a shortage of fuel and forage. The immediate area no longer provided enough for both the military establishment and the 157 white settlers and their livestock.

Perhaps, however, the new reserve ordered surveyed by Plympton was somewhat larger than necessary. It extended, according to Taliaferro's journal, west five miles from the mouth of the Minnesota River, north through Lakes Harriet and Calhoun to the Falls of St. Anthony, east across the Mississippi for five miles and south again to the Mississippi.



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Fort Ripley, at first called Fort Gaines, was founded in 1848.

Where the reserve extended east of the Mississippi (it reached as far as what is now Seven Corners in St. Paul) the land technically fell within the Territory of Wisconsin whose legislature protested to the Secretary of War. The settlers also protested in vain. Those civilians who did not move voluntarily were evicted under military orders, and their cabins burned.

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the reserve, in truth, was created at least partially for speculative purposes. Plympton and a number of his subordinate officers acquired tracts of this land and later sold them to Franklin Steele.

This eviction, however, created St. Paul. Many of the settlers moved down the Mississippi and clustered around the whiskey shanty of "Pig's Eye" Parrant on the site of the present St. Paul Union Depot.

As the years passed, conditions changed on the Minnesota frontier and Fort Snelling lost many of the reasons for existence. Its garrison had been reduced to three or four companies in the 1820s when Col. Snelling had taken most of the troops to Prairie du Chien because of the Red Bird War, an uprising of the Winnebago Indians in Iowa and Illinois.

In 1848 Fort Gaines, later called Fort Ripley, was built near the mouth of the Crow Wing River and the importance of Fort Snelling was declining. The garrison often numbered only a little

over 100 men, and many frontier residents believed the fort soon would be abandoned for the same reasons which had closed many other frontier posts.

Earlier, in 1842, the American Fur Company had gone out of existence, and the fur trade had fallen to independent storekeepers. Lumbering was the most important industry. St. Paul located at the head of navigation on the Mississippi, and St. Anthony, stimulated by the power of the falls, were growing rapidly. There also were an increasing number of farmers.

As the population grew, so did pressure for establishing a territorial government. The special census of 1849 placed the population of the proposed territory at 4,852, including 200 soldiers at Fort Snelling and 117 at Fort Gaines. The 1850 census showed a population of 6,077.

In 1849, congress established the Territory of Minnesota. In area, the new territory was about twice the size of the present state, extending west to the Missouri and White Earth Rivers. President James K. Polk signed the Minnesota Territory Act just as his term of office was ending. Leadership in establishing the territory came from Sibley who had been sent to Washington as a delegate from the rump territory of Wisconsin.

(When Wisconsin became a state in 1848, its western boundary was established at the St. Croix River. The triangular section between the St. Croix and the Mississippi, which had been part of the Wisconsin Territory, still had legal status as a territory. This, then, was the rump territory of Wisconsin. Sibley was accepted as its delegate although his legal residence actually was west of the Mississippi. This triangular section later became part of Minnesota. Stephen A. Douglas supported Sibley in his efforts.)

The new president, Zachary Taylor, appointed Alexander Ramsey of Pennsylvania first territorial governor. When Ramsey arrived in May of 1849, he found Minnesota on the edge of a boom.

John Stevens had been allowed to build on the west side of the Mississippi at the Falls of St. Anthony in return for operating a military ferry and, being on the site, he and his backers eventually made good their claim to the location.

The first newspaper, the Minnesota Pioneer, had been established in St. Paul in 1849 and there had been a 25 per cent increase in the civilized population in less than a year. However, the officials realized that the boom would not last if most of the land remained in possession of Indians, particularly the fertile lands south of the Sioux-Chippewa line.



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

This map of the Fort Snelling military reserve was drawn in 1850 and shows an early plat of a section of St. Paul.

Since everyone expected that the Sioux soon would be induced to sell their lands, there was a growing sentiment for cutting the size of the Fort Snelling military reservation, which covered most of what is now Minneapolis. Some people favored complete elimination of the fort. In 1849, the territorial legislature asked Sibley to get congress to confine the military reservation to land between the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. Sibley proposed that the reserve be reduced to one square mile, but congress failed to act.

When negotiations with the Sioux were in progress, Col. Francis Lee, then in command at the fort, was afraid extreme action might be taken. He proposed to the adjutant general that



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Treaty of Traverse des Sioux in 1851. Painted by Frank B. Mayer from sketches made at the scene.

new boundaries be set up to satisfy local sentiment and still safeguard the fort. In 1851 congress accepted these recommendations and reduced the reserve to about one-third its former area. Northern boundary was Minnehaha Creek, Lake Amelia and Mother Lake. Pike Island and very small tracts across both rivers remained in the reservation.

The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux had been signed in 1851 with Luke Lea of Mississippi, commissioner of Indian affairs, as treaty commissioner and Ramsey as his associate. The official party traveled from Fort Snelling to Traverse des Sioux by steamboat with a military escort.

Under this agreement and another pact made immediately after at Mendota, the government purchased the "Suland," a territory bounded on the north by the Sioux-Chippewa line, the east by the Mississippi and on the west by the headwaters of the Big Sioux and the Wild Rose Rivers. The southern boundary included all lands claimed by the Sioux in Iowa. A narrow reservation was set aside for the Sioux along the upper half of the Minnesota River and the Winnebago were finally located on a small reservation south of Mankato.

In 1850 these lands were opened to settlement and settlers poured in. The special territorial census of 1857 listed 150,037 persons in the territory; the census of 1860 showed a population of 172,023. Indians were no longer an important factor in the lands around Fort Snelling. The Chippewa were far to the north



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Map showing Indian cessions and reservations to 1858.

in the pine forests and the Sioux had been moved to the west.

Fort Gaines, later Fort Ripley, protected missionaries, traders and lumbermen operating in the northern area. In 1857-58, Fort Abercrombie was constructed on the Red River of the North. Military roads linked St. Paul with Hastings, Winona and Dubuque; Mendota with Big Sioux on Dodd Road, and St. Anthony with Henderson and the Fort Ridgely road.

Both forts were designed to hold the Sioux in check and the garrison at Fort Snelling was transferred to Fort Ridgely except for a small guard to take care of the buildings.

Fort Snelling became only a depot where supplies were received and stored before being sent on to other forts closer to the frontier. Since abandonment of the fort was expected, there

was considerable maneuvering by residents who wished to buy the valuable property.

In 1857, Secretary of War, John B. Floyd, who was authorized to dispose of military reservations, sold the Fort Snelling reservation to Franklin Steele and several other speculators associated with him for \$90,000. Perhaps Floyd, believing the reservation was of little value and no longer needed for military purposes, was eager to do a favor for a friend. He departed from the customary procedure of opening the property to bids and entered into a private contract with Steele who had tried unsuccessfully to buy the property a year earlier when Jefferson Davis was secretary of war.

The down payment of \$30,000 was made. Another \$30,000 was to be paid a year later and the rest in two years, after which Steele was to take possession. A strong protest against the sale was made by Col. Lorenzo Thomas, senior officer on the staff of Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott, and the sale was attacked violently in the house of representatives.

Steele and his associates had planned a new townsite on the property but the financial panic of 1857 put an end to this plan. As a result of the panic and the congressional inquiry into the legality of the sale, Steele defaulted on payments to the government. Nevertheless, in 1858 Floyd ordered the Fort Snelling reservation transferred to Steele.

On June 1 the United States flag was hauled down and the little garrison marched away. It is difficult to find reasons to justify this property transfer, particularly since Floyd apparently did not profit personally from the transaction.

When Minnesota entered the union in 1858, Fort Snelling thus was in private ownership. In 1860 the government brought suit to recover possession of the reservation. The suit brought no immediate results.

However, the outbreak of the War Between the States in 1861 revealed the military importance of Fort Snelling. Here was the strategic center where troops, equipment and supplies could be assembled and stored, where soldiers could be trained and from which they could be dispatched south and east.

Forts Ripley, Ridgely and Abercrombie were frontier posts set up to protect settlers and to control Indian tribes. Events soon were to show the continuing need for these forts.

Fort Snelling, on the other hand, was a place of permanent strategic and military value. Therefore, the government of the

state of Minnesota commandeered the reservation and took possession, apparently without any objection from Steele. Gov. Ramsey designated the fort as the rendezvous for the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment in 1861, and the post has remained permanently in possession of the government. Steele's claims were not finally settled until January of 1871.

CHAPTER II

MINNESOTA IN THE CIVIL WAR

In April, 1861, the Civil War burst upon Minnesotans with surprising suddenness. On the frontier, the everyday labors of clearing the land, breaking the tough prairie sod and keeping an eye on the potentially hostile Indians were of more immediate urgency than the events in Washington. In the newly-created state, the settlers, for the most part, did not share the partisan bitterness of abolitionist and secessionist.

There were no railroads to connect Minnesota with the East. News traveled slowly and, with the exception of St. Paul, surrounding settlements and a few river towns, it often arrived days and weeks after an event.

Abolitionists, agitators and sympathizers were few in number. Most famous abolitionist was Mrs. Jane Grey Swisshelm who founded the "St. Cloud Visitor" in 1857. A dedicated champion of temperance and women's rights, as well as abolition, she attacked with fiery enthusiasm the opponents of these issues and earned their enmity.

One of her enemies hired thugs to break up her printing press and dump the type into the Mississippi. Outraged St. Cloud citizens took up a collection to buy a new press.

To avoid a lawsuit growing out of this affair, Mrs. Swisshelm closed down the "Visitor" and issued the next day the first edition of the "St. Cloud Democrat." At the end of 1862, she left St. Cloud for Washington where she continued to write, becoming perhaps one of the country's first women war correspondents.

Minnesotans generally were opposed to the extension of slavery but had no intention of interfering with slavery where it did exist in the South. Lt. William Lochren, later Judge Lochren, in his account of the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment, sums up the prevailing attitude when he speaks of the . . . "constant recrimination and abuse passing between the haughty, arrogant representatives of the Southern slaveholders and the meddlesome Abolitionists of the North, each hating the other, and equally

willing to disrupt the union which bound them together. .”

Minnesota, earnestly desiring peace, stood aside and watched and her representatives in congress sought compromise and moderation. Sen. Henry M. Rice represented the Buchanan wing of the Democratic party in Minnesota. He was a political rival of former Gov. Sibley, leader of the large majority of Minnesota Democrats and a friend and supporter of Stephen A. Douglas.

While the Crittenden Compromise was under consideration, Rice proposed one of his own. He suggested that the boundaries of Minnesota, California, Oregon and Kansas be extended to include all remaining territory belonging to the United States. He felt this action would relieve the Southerners' fear of a future large increase in the number of free states.

Rice feared an attack on Washington and favored a decision allowing the seceding states to depart in peace. But when war came he changed his mind and supported the Union cause.

The junior senator from Minnesota, Morton S. Wilkinson, a Republican, was an ardent supporter of the Lincoln administration. In January, 1861, three months before the firing upon Fort Sumter, Wilkinson saw the gathering clouds of war and wrote Gov. Ramsey, urging him to organize the state militia.

However, in Minnesota, nothing was done except to pass resolutions. The state treasury was nearly empty. Two-thirds of the taxes assessed had not been paid. But the people began to sense their country's peril and by the end of January, Wilkinson was able to present a resolution in the senate from the Minnesota legislature urging firm support of the federal government in the developing crisis.

With the news that Fort Sumter and the steamer, *Star of the West*, both flying the United States flag, had been deliberately fired upon in Charleston harbor under Confederate orders, the nation--and Minnesota--awoke to the reality of war.

In the years that followed, Minnesota's young men served their country with devotion and courage. These men--many were little more than boys--brought honor to their state. Those who died of disease or perished in Southern prison camps gave their lives for their country just as surely as those who fell on the battlefield.

At the beginning, Minnesota, like all other Northern states, was totally unprepared for war. The regular United States Army numbered only 16,000 men. Few of them were in Minnesota. The military reservation had been sold and Fort Snelling was privately owned. Two or three infantry companies were stationed at each



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Hexagonal tower at Fort Snelling. This picture was taken during the Civil War period. Building at the left is the fort's hospital.

of the three posts guarding the Minnesota frontier--Forts Ridgely, Ripley and Abercrombie.

However, in the 1850s in Minnesota, as in other parts of the United States, a marked interest in military affairs had sprung up, due, in part, to the Mexican War of 1846-47, and to an even greater extent to the Crimean War of 1853-56. Many of the larger communities had local military companies which drilled and paraded on special occasions. The first of these militia companies to be organized in the state was the St. Paul Pioneer Guards formed in 1856. In 1861 it became one of the companies of the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment.

Uniforms of these early militia companies were colorful. Zouave uniforms modeled after those worn by Algerian troops fighting with the French in the Crimea became popular.

In 1858 Minnesota's first state legislature passed a law providing for a state militia of six divisions, 12 brigades and 28 regiments with 24,389 men, the number of men in the state in the 18-to-45 age group. This was almost entirely a paper organization; yet events had indicated a need for an armed and trained citizenry.

One of these was the Battle of Shakopee in May of that year. The last battle between Chippewa and Sioux in Minnesota, it underlined for the settlers the potential dangers created by the

presence among them of warlike savages.

Another was the derisively named "Wright County War," which showed the need for military force to aid civilian authority. A murder suspect who had been tried and acquitted was seized from custody by a group of armed men and hanged. A man suspected of taking part in the crime was arrested but freed, again by a party of armed men. Gov. Sibley then sent three companies of armed and uniformed volunteers to Wright county to deal with the "insurrection." When the men arrived in Monticello, the suspects had disappeared but county officials promised to arrest at least three men. They later appeared before a grand jury and were acquitted.

The militia law of 1858 distinguished between "active militia," made up of volunteer companies, and "militia" which referred simply to all men able to carry arms. Officers were appointed for the divisions and brigades set up under the law, and Sibley seized this opportunity to recognize politically influential local leaders.

Three regiments were loosely organized and a few others had field officers but when the crisis arrived, only 147 officers and about 200 men could be found and many of those were not able to leave the state.

On Saturday night, April 13, 1861, word was received of the surrender of Fort Sumter. Minnesota was the first state to offer troops for defense of the Union. Gov. Ramsey was in Washington and the next morning went at once to the office of the Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, where he made a written offer of 1,000 soldiers from Minnesota. Considering the depleted condition of Minnesota's militia, this indeed was optimistic. Lincoln at once called for 75,000 militia to serve three months, and Cameron notified Ramsey that Minnesota's quota would be one regiment of 780 men.

The army to which Minnesota was to contribute was not a national army and, in reality, Lincoln received no militia from the loyal states. It was the federal policy to create a volunteer army of regiments organized by the states and bearing state names. These regiments were made up of companies organized in counties or villages among men who were neighbors and friends. Sometimes companies, sometimes entire regiments consisted of men recruited from immigrant groups. Among Minnesota's regiments there were companies which included many men of German, Irish or French-Canadian extraction.

As a rule, the men elected the company officers, the captain appointed the non-commissioned officers and the governor named

the field officers. In 1861, there was no organization in any of the states capable of building an army. In Minnesota, conditions were even more primitive. As was rather general throughout the North, the state government relied on volunteer leadership from men who often had to finance personally the cost of raising a company of soldiers. They usually were rewarded with election as captain because they possessed qualities of leadership and the men who enlisted under them thought them worthy of trust.

Because of the same qualifications, many of these officers later became governors, legislators and congressmen. Among them was Brig. Gen. Stephen Miller who resigned his commission in January, 1864, to become the fourth governor of Minnesota. Brevet Brig. Gen. William R. Marshall and Brevet Brig. Gen. Lucius F. Hubbard both were elected governors. Sen. Knute Nelson and Gov. Samuel R. Van Sant were among the many men from the ranks who later were to become prominent in political affairs. Nelson served with a Wisconsin regiment but moved to Minnesota after the war.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Gov. Ramsey commandeered Fort Snelling from its owner, Franklin Steele. The fort was again to play an important part in Minnesota's history. There the state regiments were recruited, organized and trained. Some training also was done at Fort Ridgely, Fort Ripley and Fort Abercrombie.

The experiences of these Minnesota men will be described in brief histories of each regiment.

FIRST MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENT

In St. Paul, Lt. Gov. Ignatius Donnelly issued the first call for volunteers, giving preference to eight existing military companies. For various reasons, most of the members of these companies were unable to leave the state, so the remnants of the eight companies were formed into three companies. To these three companies, seven new companies were added, a total of 1,000 men.

All of them bore local names. They were the Pioneer Guards, the Stillwater Guards, the St. Paul Volunteers, the Lincoln Guards, the St. Anthony Zouaves, the Goodhue Volunteers, the Faribault Volunteers, the Wabasha Volunteers, the Dakota Volunteers and the Winona Volunteers. Their regiment became the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment.

On April 27, the adjutant general announced the acceptance of the regiment and a rendezvous was ordered at Fort Snelling.



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

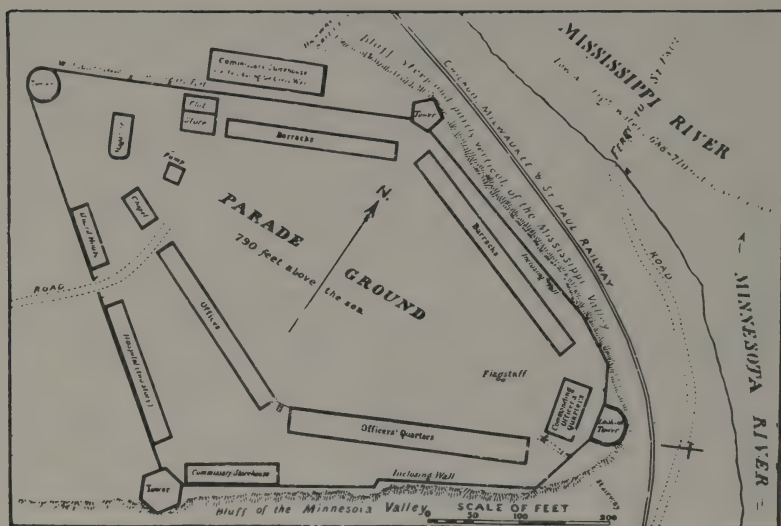
Officers of the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment photographed in front of the commandant's house at Fort Snelling in May, 1861.

On April 29, Willis A. Gorman was commissioned colonel and took command. On that day and the next, 950 officers and men were sworn into the service of their country. Capt. Anderson D. Nelson, the only regular army officer in the state, mustered the regiment into service after brief and superficial (by today's standards) physical examinations. There were few rejections. Within a few days, the men's term of service was extended from three months to three years and some 350 men dropped out. Their places soon were filled.

With the assembling of the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment, undoubtedly the most famous of the state's military organizations, the neglected old fort began to take on a holiday atmosphere. The men were in high spirits, looking forward to the war--which was to cost them so much--as a lark, a great adventure.

They fell to the task of cleaning and repairing the buildings. Rope was found, a volunteer climbed the flagstaff and the Stars and Stripes were raised and saluted with 34 guns, one for each state of the Union, including Kansas and each of the seceding states.

The fort's grounds were crowded with visitors. Dinner that night was served in tin cups and plates on rough board tables. The men were bedded down on loose straw.



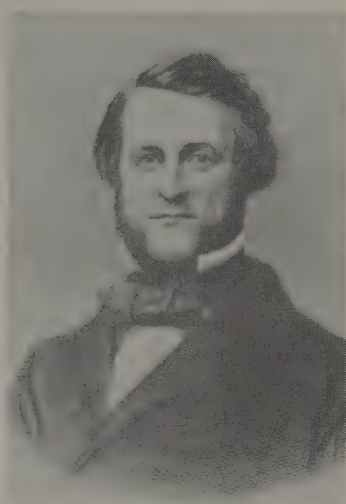
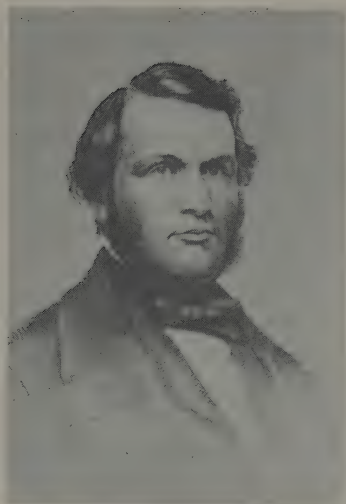
Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Map of Fort Snelling in 1863. In front of the round tower at left is the magazine and arranged around the magazine are the guardhouse at left next to road entering fort, the chapel, pump, club and store. On either side of the hexagonal tower is the hospital, left, and the commissary storehouse. Ranged around the parade ground are officers quarters, the commandant's quarters with lookout tower behind it, and two barracks.

At the muster the same day, Gov. Ramsey named the field officers. Gorman was a happy choice as colonel. At a time when many officers were as inexperienced as the men, Col. Gorman brought to his command the experience gained in service with the Fourth Indiana Infantry Regiment during the Mexican War. A Kentuckian, he had been a major general of militia, had twice been elected to the house of representatives from Indiana and had come to Minnesota as second territorial governor.

The regiment later had four colonels, Napoleon J. T. Dana, Alfred Sully, George N. Morgan and William Colvill. All eventually became brigadier generals, and Sully at the war's end was a major general. Stephen Miller was appointed lieutenant colonel of the regiment; William H. Dike was major; William B. Leach, father of Maj. Gen. George E. Leach who brought honor to Minnesota in a later war, was first adjutant.

Col. Gorman began at once to drill the regiment and this went on unceasingly, often under the eyes of visitors who crowded the parade grounds. None of the men had uniforms except the Winona



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Alexander Ramsey

Franklin Steele

Volunteers who were attired neatly in gray.

On May 3, Gorman asked Ramsey not only for uniforms but for canteens, axes, spades, picks, cooking utensils and knapsacks. Neither government, state or federal, was ready to pay for uniforms so the regiment had to depend upon private gifts and personal funds. The adjutant general of the state, John B. Sanborn, whose salary was only \$100 a year, spent between \$2,000 and \$3,000 of his own money.

The men attired themselves in picturesque outfits consisting of red flannel shirts, black pantaloons and black felt slouch hats purchased from St. Paul stores. After the Battle of Bull Run, where their red shirts made them excellent targets for Confederate rifles, the men were issued regulation uniforms, chiefly through Sanborn's efforts.

The state provided each man with a blanket, a shirt and a pair of socks. A bill from Culver and Farrington of St. Paul dated June, 1861, lists these purchases:

868 blankets for men, at \$3.	\$2,604.00
13 blankets for hospital, at \$3	39.00
800 flannel shirts, at \$1.50	1,200.00
975 pairs wool socks, at 25¢.	243.75
868 hats, at \$2.25	1,953.00
868 pairs pants, at \$4.50.	3,906.00
868 pairs drawers, at 62½¢.	542.00

Total amount	\$10,488.25
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Arms for the men were many and varied, to say the very least. Since Minnesota's admission to the Union in 1858, the state had received about 1,700 muskets from the federal government to be used to arm the militia. Many had been lost or broken but more than enough remained to equip the First Minnesota. These were not all alike, however. Some companies received Springfield rifles, then the best arm in the services. Others were given Mississippi rifles with sword bayonets, and others miscellaneous firearms of assorted sizes and descriptions.

Those with Springfield rifles were allowed to keep them but the other weapons soon were replaced with 69 caliber muskets which were larger and more effective. There was almost no ammunition, however, and that which was available was frequently the wrong size.

There was a gaiety, a sense of high adventure and drama about the first days of the war and the First Minnesota knew in full measure the acclaim accorded a departing regiment.

There were parties, banquets, presentations of swords, horses, flags. Visitors from surrounding cities arrived in special coaches. One day six stage coaches filled with young women came to the fort from St. Anthony.

On May 1, Col. Gorman was presented with a handsome sword by Maj. W. J. Cullen of St. Paul and the next day the first dress parade was held before the ever-present crowd. On May 14, friends gave Col. Gorman a war horse equipped with saddle and bridle. In the War Between the States, field officers were mounted and each officer had an orderly to care for the horse.

Each regiment carried two flags, the flag of the United States and a special regimental or state flag. A color guard carried and defended the flags, an unusually dangerous assignment because enemy fire tended to concentrate on the color guard. Both armies made great efforts to capture the enemy flags. The First Minnesota's banner was given to the regiment by the women of Winona. The flag was torn with bullets and shells in the Battle of Bull Run. The women of St. Paul gave the flag which was carried by the regiment for three years. Both now are preserved in the capitol in St. Paul.

Soon after the regiment had been mustered in, six companies were ordered to the three frontier posts, two companies each to Fort Ridgely, Fort Ripley and Fort Abercrombie. They were to relieve the experienced regular army soldiers of the Second United States Infantry who were to depart at once for the South. The order was a disappointment to men of the First Minnesota

who had enlisted for service in the South and not to mark time watching Indians on the frontier. On May 28, the first two companies left for Fort Ridgely. A day later two more departed for Fort Ripley and still later the last two companies left for Fort Abercrombie.

Their frontier service was brief. On June 14, the regiment was ordered to Washington and the six companies were ordered back to Fort Snelling. The two companies which were marching to Fort Abercrombie had not reached their destination when they were ordered to retrace their line of march.

At Fort Snelling, the men received their orders with wild rejoicing. The colonel, says a contemporary account, "fairly howled with joy" and the men hurrahed and hugged one another. On June 22, the First Minnesota left for Washington aboard two steamboats, Northern Belle and War Eagle, for La Crosse and Prairie du Chien. In St. Paul, the men disembarked at the upper levee, marched through streets lined with cheering crowds, and embarked again at the lower levee. As the boats approached the levees at Hastings, Red Wing, Winona and other river towns, crowds gathered to cheer.

First class railway coaches took the regiment from the Mississippi across the prairies to Chicago and eastward to Harrisburg, Pa., where the regiment had been ordered to report. The men were cheered by crowds in both cities. From Harrisburg to Baltimore, the Minnesotans traveled in cattle cars without seats, and in Baltimore, a city of hostile citizens sympathetic toward the South, the men marched across the city with loaded guns and fixed bayonets.

In Washington, the regiment crossed the Potomac River to Alexandria. There they became part of Franklin's brigade in Heintzelman's division of the Army of the Potomac. Within less than three weeks, the First Minnesota was under fire in the disastrous Battle of Bull Run. The regiment was one of the last to be ordered into battle against troops commanded by Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson.

In a half hour of fighting, 42 Minnesota soldiers were killed, including the color sergeant, and 108 wounded. When the battle was over, 30 others were missing, most of them wounded prisoners of war. The regimental colors were riddled with shot.

Nevertheless, the First Minnesota was able to retire in order when the retreat from the field was sounded and, along with a Rhode Island regiment, brought up the rear. The First Minnesota lost more than 20 per cent of its regimental strength, the heaviest

loss, proportionately, of any regiment in action that day. But the men fought like veterans and both Gen. Franklin and Gen. Heintzelman commended them in their reports.

Yet the blunders of the Northern command had a sobering, saddening effect on the men. The regimental officers seriously questioned the conduct of the battle--the decision to lead the regiments forward, one by one, to face the Confederates instead of combining them for greater strength. They questioned the failure of the command to use the Fourteenth New York, standing idle to one side, to relieve the Minnesota regiment during the worst of the fighting.

After the retreat to Washington, the Minnesota regiment was stationed at Camp Stone and assigned to picket duty around Edward's Ferry. Col. Gorman was promoted to brigadier general in command of the brigade of which the First Minnesota was one of four regiments.

Officers of the rank of general were appointed by the president but confirmed by the senate. When Col. Gorman's name was presented to the senate, opposition arose over disciplinary measures he had taken to halt the illicit sale of liquor to his troops. He had expelled from camp the sutler of the Thirty-fourth New York regiment and had ordered the arrest of two Negro slaves who were selling liquor in camp. He had the Negroes whipped by the soldiers who had bought the liquor.

This incident was taken up by the New York Tribune and reported with highly colored stories and editorials. Abolitionist groups brought pressure on the senate against the confirmation. Only the personal intervention of Gen. Winfield Scott, with whom Col. Gorman had served during the Mexican War, prevented defeat of his appointment.

Napoleon J. T. Dana, a West Point graduate who had served with credit in the Mexican War, next became colonel of the First Minnesota.

In October the regiment played a minor role in the skirmishing which followed another disastrous battle for the North--the Battle of Ball's Bluff. One man was killed and few wounded before the regiment returned to Camp Stone.

In January, 1862, Col. Dana was promoted to brigadier general. New colonel of the regiment was Alfred Sully, another West Point graduate with experience in both the Seminole and Mexican Wars. The regiment next took part in minor operations in the Shenandoah valley south of Harper's Ferry.

Returning to Washington in March, 1862, the regiment was caught in a drenching late-winter rainstorm and, through some

blunder, was left standing all night on an Alexandria street. The next day the Minnesotans were taken to the same ground on which they had camped before Bull Run. The wet, shivering men remembered that a year before they had "borrowed" a barrel of whiskey from a sutler's tent and buried it on the camp ground. They dug it up and the contents, Lochren reported, "were probably beneficial in counteracting the effects of the exposure" of the previous night.

Several days later the regiment boarded small steamers for Hampton Roads. For nearly five months, as a part of the Second Division of the Second Corps of the Army of the Potomac, the regiment had a part in the series of battles known collectively as the Peninsula Campaign.

The troops took part in the battles of Yorktown, Fair Oaks, Savage Station and Malvern Hill. At this time the regimental chaplain, the Rev. Edward D. Neill, left the regiment to become one of President Lincoln's private secretaries.

In late summer, the First Minnesota, along with the Army of the Potomac was ordered back to Washington. The Peninsula Campaign was a failure and while the First Minnesota was in northern Virginia, Gen. George B. McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac, was relieved of his command. This was a sad blow to the Minnesotans because the general had been popular with them.

Still the war did not go well for the Union. In the Second Battle of Bull Run, Gen. Pope was defeated and the First Minnesota, as part of the Second Corps, helped cover the retreat of the defeated army. The regiment by this time had been reduced to 300 men.

Now Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee invaded Maryland and panic assailed Washington. Gen. McClellan was restored to command. The Battle of Antietam followed, preceded by a smaller battle of Stone Mountain. The First Minnesota took part in both, and assigned to the extreme right of the Union lines at Antietam, its losses were heavy. Col. Sully was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and placed in command of the division. Gen. Gorman was transferred to a command in the West and the men of the "Old First," as its survivors afterwards called the regiment, watched his departure with regret.

After minor operations in the Shenandoah valley, the regiment was returned to northern Virginia. Their new colonel was George N. Morgan, who had been captain of Company E. The regiment also included the Second Company of Minnesota Sharpshooters

which had been recruited in the fall of 1861 and attached to the regiment at the Battle of Fair Oaks in the Peninsula. The Sharpshooters remained with the First Minnesota for 18 months.

In October, the First Minnesota was operating in the Loudon valley. There were strict orders against foraging but the population was sympathetic with the Confederates and the soldiers wanted a change of diet. One day some men caught a fat sheep and were butchering it when they saw the provost guard approaching. They quickly made a gift of their "catch" to a nearby Maine Regiment which accepted it gladly--and with it, a visit from the provost guard.

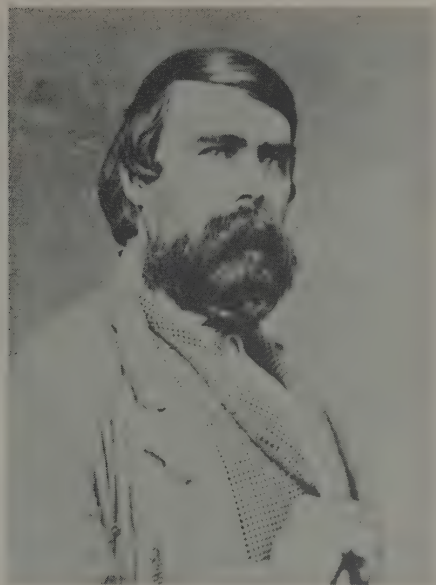
While the regiment was at Rectortown, Va., news of the final removal of Gen. McClellan arrived. So great was the army's confidence in his leadership that many men of the regiment shed tears. Most line officers wrote out their resignations but Gen. Sully persuaded them not to leave the army.

The First Minnesota did not play an important part in the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. While it occupied part of Fredericksburg, some stores were looted. Gen. Sully took over the home of his brother-in-law who had gone with his state into the Confederacy. In the house was a portrait of Gen. Sully as well as one of his father, the famous painter. Gen. Sully told the men of the First Minnesota to take whatever they wanted because the house belonged to a secessionist--his way of telling them to leave it alone. They all did.

Before the Battle of Chancellorsville, Gov. Ramsey visited the regiment and President Lincoln inspected the Army of the Potomac. About this time, Gen. Sully was ordered to Minnesota to command an army in the Sioux War. Col. Morgan resigned and soon became a brigadier general in command of Fort Snelling and a reserve regiment. New colonel of the First Minnesota was William Colvill who had been captain of Company F.

Thus Col. Colvill was in command when the First Minnesota marched toward Gettysburg and everlasting fame. The great battle, marking the high tide of the Confederate cause, began on July 1, 1863, at the little Pennsylvania crossroads town where Lee's Confederate troops and the Army of the Potomac faced each other across a cemetery and a peach orchard.

After steady marching from northern Virginia, the Second Division of the Second Corps, of which the First Minnesota was a part, arrived at the battlefield on July 2. Three companies were detached, Company F as skirmishers, Company C as provost guard of the division and Company L, the sharpshooters, as support for a battery near the cemetery. The remaining companies,



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

William Colvill, fifth colonel
of the First Minnesota Infantry
Regiment who led the
charge at Gettysburg.

with Col. Colvill in command, were stationed in support of Battery C of the Fourth United States Artillery on a salient of Cemetery Ridge and north of Little Round Top. There were 262 men ready for action.

They could see Gen. Sickles' Third Corps in its struggle with the Confederates at the orchard. Near sunset the corps gave way and the men poured past the Minnesotans to reform in the rear. Gen. Sickles had been wounded and Gen. Hancock found himself in command of both the Second and Third Corps. He had sent for reinforcements. They were coming on the run, but they did not arrive. In minutes the advancing Confederates would be upon them. Desperately, Hancock turned toward the little band of Minnesota men facing the on-coming enemy.

"There was no organized force near to oppose them except our handful of 262 men," wrote William Lochren in his account of the regiment in "Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars."

"Most soldiers in the face of the near advance of such an overpowering force which had just defeated a considerable portion of an army corps, would have caught the panic and joined the



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Charge of the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment during the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

retreating masses. But the First Minnesota had never yet deserted any post, had never retired without orders and, desperate as the situation seemed and as it was, the regiment stood firm...

"Just then Hancock, with a single aide, rode up at full speed.. calling out as he reached us, 'What regiment is this?' "

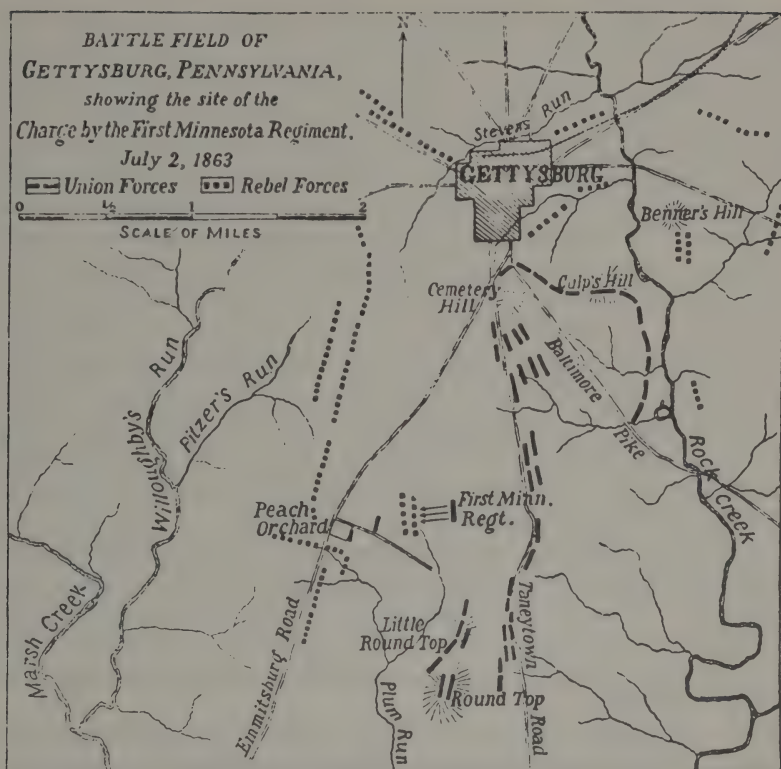
" 'First Minnesota,' " replied Colvill.

" 'Charge those lines,' " commanded Hancock.

"Every man realized in an instant what that order meant--death or wounds to us all, the sacrifice of the regiment to gain a few minutes' time and save the position and probably the battle-field and every man saw and accepted the necessity for the sacrifice..."

"Responding to Colvill's rapid orders, the regiment in perfect line, with arms at right shoulder shift was in a moment sweeping down the slope directly upon the enemy's center..."

Moving at double time, not stopping to fire although enemy fire immediately began to thin the ranks, the little band neared the enemy's first line.



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Map of the battlefield at Gettysburg showing the site of the charge of the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment on July 2, 1863.

"Charge," shouted Colvill, and with leveled bayonets and at a full run the Minnesota men rushed upon the rebel lines.

"The men were never made," wrote Lochren, "who will stand against leveled bayonets coming with such momentum and evident desperation. The first line broke in our front as we reached it, and rushed back through the second line, stopping the whole advance."

With twilight, the deadly battle ended. Only 47 men were left to answer the regimental roll call; of the 262 who began the charge, 215 were dead or wounded, the most severe loss suffered by a Union regiment during the Civil War. Not a man was missing. The First Minnesota's brave, gallant men were sacrificed to save the army from rout. The regiment had charged an enemy force more than 20 times its size and had lost more than four-fifths of

its men. Today, a monument on the battlefield at Gettysburg marks the spot where the charge began.

The next day, third and last day of the battle, still another ordeal awaited the handful of survivors. The men, together with the companies which had been away on other duties, rejoined their brigade. They were placed in the front line of the Second Division, Second Corps, whose position was to become the objective of Confederate Gen. Pickett's famous charge.

At 1 p.m. a furious cannonade began between the Confederate artillery mounted on Seminary Ridge and the Union guns above and behind the Second Corps. After two hours of continuous firing, the guns suddenly stopped, almost simultaneously. The men lay tensely, knowing what was to come, watching as two lines of gray --15,000 Confederates--emerged from the woods three-quarters of a mile away and headed directly for the Second Division's position, never hesitating but changing their pace first to double-quick and then to the full charge.

The Minnesota men, joined at this moment by Company C and mingling with the other regiments, rushed at a run to join in repulsing the charge. Seventeen more men were killed or wounded, including all of the color guard. The regimental flag's staff was shot in two. But the battle was over and Gen. Lee began his retreat southward.

Two men from Minnesota were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, established in 1862, for bravery in action at Gettysburg. They were Cpl. Henry D. O'Brien, St. Anthony Falls, cited for gallantry in action on the last day of battle, and Pvt. Marshall Sherman, St. Paul, decorated for capturing the flag of the 58th Virginia Infantry, also on the last day of battle.

(Three other Minnesotans were to be awarded the Medal of Honor during the Civil War: Sgt. Alonzo H. Pickle of Dover for gallantry in action at Deep Bottom, Va., in 1864; Pvt. John Vale of Rochester for bravery at Nolensville, Tenn., in 1863, and Pvt. John Johnson of Rochester for "conspicuous gallantry in battle in which he was severely wounded.")

The First Minnesota saw no more heavy action. Late in the summer of 1863, the regiment was sent to New York to help preserve order after the draft riots of July. After a month, the men were back in northern Virginia to take part in military operations at Bristow Station and Mine Run. These engagements brought the regiment's service to a close. The three-year term of enlistment was due to expire in the spring of 1864 and the regiment was ordered back to Fort Snelling. Col. Colvill and Lt.

Col. Charles P. Adams both were promoted to the rank of brevet brigadier general.

On its arrival in St. Paul, the First Minnesota was honored at a banquet in the National Hotel. William Windom presided. There to pay their respects were Vice President Hannibal Hamlin, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton and Representatives Aldrich and Donnelly. Secretary of State Seward, Secretary of the Treasury Chase and Postmaster General Blair sent letters.

On April 29, 1864, 309 members of the regiment were mustered out of service following a review of the regiment by Gov. Stephen Miller. In addition, 135 members had re-enlisted as members of the First Minnesota Battalion of Infantry. What had become of the 841 other men who had been enrolled in the regiment? Wounds and illness had resulted in the discharge of many, and there had been accidents, a few desertions, and heavy losses due to deaths in battle. A number of officers had been promoted and transferred to other regiments. In 1862, there were many transfers to cavalry regiments. Some men had joined the crews of gunboats operating on western rivers and some had been transferred to the signal corps and other special services.

FIRST MINNESOTA BATTALION, VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

The First Minnesota Battalion, Voluntary Infantry, was a continuation of the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment. Companies A and B were made up of re-enlistments from the First Minnesota with new recruits. Organized at Fort Snelling, the two companies were sent to Washington in May, 1864, and became a part of the First Brigade, Second Division, Second Corps, the same assignment held by the old regiment.

The battalion arrived just after the Battle of Cold Harbor and took part in operations against Richmond under the command of Gen. Grant. The battalion also was engaged at Deep Bottom, Ream's Station, Hatcher's Run, the final assault on Petersburg and the surrender at Appomatox.

Companies C to I of the First Infantry Battalion were mustered into service from February to April, 1865. They were ordered to northern Virginia but did not arrive in time to engage in any military operations.

Over the years, the achievements of Minnesota's other regiments have been in a measure dimmed by the luster of the First Minnesota. Yet the "Old First's" sister regiments also fought with valor, courage and distinction.

SECOND MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENT

The orders moving the First Minnesota to Washington in 1861 also requested that a second regiment be recruited and Gov. Ramsey sent out the call on June 14. Nine days later the first company reported at Fort Snelling and the last company was ready August 23. The Second Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was the largest of the Minnesota regiments with nearly 1,800 names on its rolls. It campaigned in no less than eight southern states

Early in July, six of the 10 companies were ordered to the frontier forts, Ridgely, Ripley and Abercrombie, where they drilled and watched the Indians for nearly three months. Meanwhile, Gov. Ramsey had appointed Horatio P. Van Cleve as colonel, James George lieutenant colonel and Simeon Smith major of the regiment.

Before the troops left for the South, Capt. Alexander Wilkin of the First Minnesota became major in place of Smith who became paymaster in the regular army. Col. Van Cleve had been an officer in the regular army and Lt. Col. George and Maj. Wilkin both had been officers in the Mexican War.

Amid a rousing sendoff, the Second Regiment left for Washington on October 14, traveling by boat to LaCrosse and then by rail through Chicago to Pittsburgh. Here, new orders diverted the regiment to Kentucky. Traveling down the Ohio River, the regiment landed at Louisville and reported to Gen. Sherman who was in command of the Department of the Cumberland. Traveling south again on railroad flatcars, the regiment became part of the Third Brigade, First Division, Army of the Ohio. Division commander was Gen. George H. Thomas. Gen. Buell commanded the army.

On January 1, 1862, the Second Regiment folded its tents, loaded its baggage train and marched to its first battle in the campaign of Mill Springs. Each man carried his musket, 40 pounds of ball cartridges, a knapsack containing his personal belongings, canteen, blanket, overcoat and food rations for three days in his haversack. The load weighed 40 to 45 pounds.

The Mill Springs campaign ended in a victory for the Union. Large quantities of supplies and equipment were taken and the Second Regiment captured the flag of the 15th Mississippi Regiment. Twelve men were killed in action, but days of cold rain, marching through endless mud and sleeping on the ground without shelter or warmth took an even heavier toll and the sick lists

grew long. Many men never were able to rejoin the regiment.

The campaign and the capture of Forts Henry and Donelson opened the way to Nashville. The Second Regiment was ordered back to Louisville where it boarded river steamers and proceeded up the Cumberland River to Nashville. While the Battle of Shiloh was being fought, the regiment was slowly slogging over muddy roads and across swollen streams.

Arriving by steamer at Pittsburgh Landing, the regiment helped to bury the dead and care for the wounded. Col. Van Cleve was promoted to brigadier general and Lt. Col. George became colonel of the regiment.

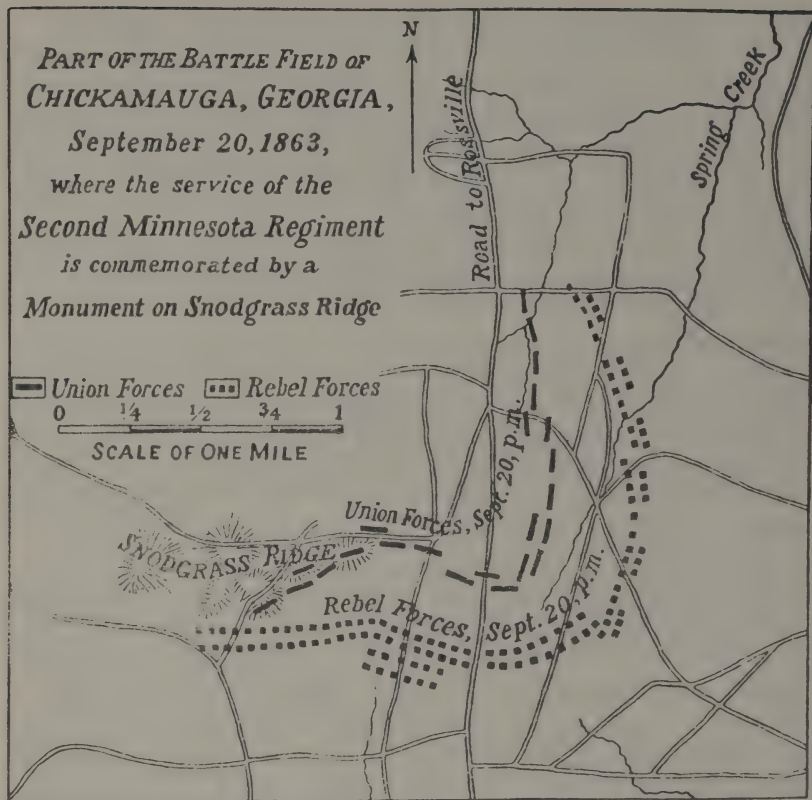
The Second Regiment took part in the long siege of Corinth. Then it marched swiftly north with Buell's army which was trying to head off Confederate Gen. Bragg's invasion of Kentucky, an invasion made possible, in part, by the unfortunate surrender of the Third Minnesota Regiment at Murfreesboro, Tenn. During this march, Company C of the Third Minnesota was attached to the Second Regiment.

At this time, news came of the Sioux Uprising in Minnesota, creating much apprehension among men with families or friends in southwestern Minnesota. After two months with the Second Minnesota, Company C of the Third Regiment was sent back to Minnesota to join in the war against the Sioux. Lt. Col. Wilkin also went back to Minnesota to become colonel of the Ninth Minnesota Regiment.

By January, 1863, the men of the Second Minnesota were back in the Nashville area to take part in minor operations south of the city near Triune and Tullahoma. Railroads of value to the South were destroyed; roads were rebuilt, often "corduroyed" by laying logs across the roadway; property and positions were guarded against enemy cavalry and guerrillas.

The men had to battle rain, mud and swollen streams, serious hazards at times. On one occasion, the regiment forded a creek in flood. Soldiers found the water neck deep as they crossed, holding guns over their heads with their clothes in bundles stuck on the bayonets. No one was drowned but some of the men lost all their clothing.

Six weeks after news of victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg reached it, the Second Regiment became a part of the Army of the Cumberland commanded by Gen. Rosecrans. In September, the army captured Chattanooga, Tenn., and the Battle of Chickamauga followed. The Second Minnesota, in the division commanded by Gen. Thomas, hurled back repeated Confederate attacks after



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Union and Confederate lines on September 20, 1863, during the Battle of Chickamauga. Here the Second Minnesota's service is commemorated by a monument on Snodgrass Ridge.

the other wing of the army had been routed. The regiment was one of the last to retire from the field. It had entered the conflict with 384 men; 35 were killed and, during the two days of fighting, only one man was missing. Regimental commander was Lt. Col. Bishop who was promoted to the rank of colonel when Col. George retired because of illness.

After Chickamauga, the army was reorganized with the Second Minnesota becoming part of the Second Brigade, Third Division, Fourteenth Corps. Gen. Palmer commanded the corps and Gen. Thomas the Army of the Cumberland, a post vacated by Gen. Rosecrans.

The regiment took part in the Battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge where 11 per cent of its men present for



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society
Painting in State Capitol, St. Paul

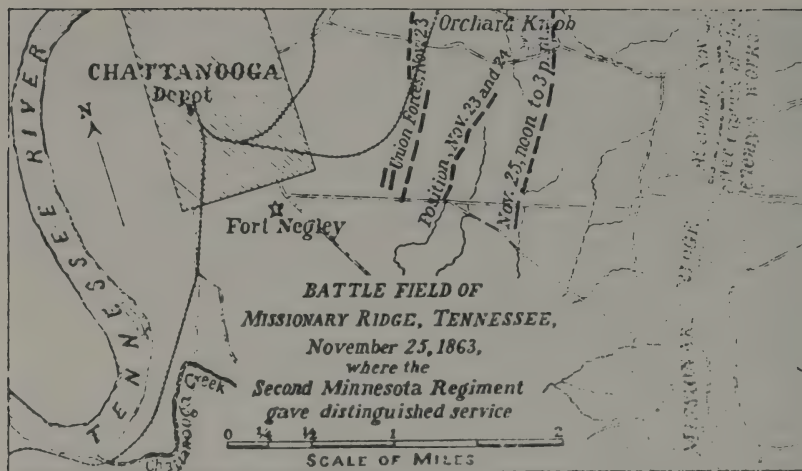
Second Minnesota Infantry Regiment at Missionary Ridge. Douglas Volk, founder of the Minneapolis School of Fine Arts, painted this picture of the regiment charging up the ridge in the face of enemy fire. Its commander, Col. J. W. Bishop, is shown waving his cap and urging the men on.

duty were killed or wounded, including all but one of the color guard.

The Second Regiment's attack on Missionary Ridge was another of the great feats of courage of the war. The enemy had built breastworks of logs along the crest of the ridge as front line defenses. These were manned by infantry and artillery in sections of two guns each and placed at intervals of 100 to 200 yards. The guns commanded the open field at the foot of the ridge. It was across this field that the Union forces would have to advance to attack the ridge.

Late in the day on November 25, the Second Minnesota received orders to advance upon the first of the enemy's fortifications on the ridge, seize and occupy it.

"The men were briefly informed of the desperate service required of them and instructed to withhold their fire and move steadily forward until the work was gained and then defend it to the utmost," Lt. Col. J. W. Bishop, who was in command of the regiment, reported later.



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Map of the battlefield at Missionary Ridge where the Second Minnesota Infantry Regiment captured the enemy fortifications. Position of the Union forces during the battle is shown.

With bayonets fixed, the line began the advance. As the men emerged from the woods, enemy muskets and artillery swept the field, but the regiment moved forward silently and steadily in the face of the fire, up the slope. Within 100 paces of the enemy line, the Second Minnesota began the charge. The enemy broke out from behind the breastworks, and fled toward their camp.

The losses of the Second Minnesota were severe. For 20 minutes the men remained in the enemy lines, under heavy fire, holding the position until a general assault by the remainder of the brigade was ordered.

When the regiment's three-year term of enlistment drew to an end, 80 per cent of the men re-enlisted and received 30-day furloughs to visit their homes in Minnesota. By March, 1864, they were back in Chattanooga where they became part of the army commanded by Gen. Sherman.

The men participated in the series of battles lasting 100 days during which there was continuous firing and fighting somewhere between the opposing armies. The Confederates were forced back to Atlanta and the city captured.

During this period, the regiment received a considerable number of recruits. As late as April, 1865, the month which brought the surrender at Appomatox, 80 recruits arrived from Minnesota. These replacements made the Second Minnesota the

largest of the state's regiments in total number of men.

The regiment took part in Sherman's March to the Sea. The army lived off the country by foraging. Sherman's troops destroyed railroads, factories and all equipment which contributed to the Confederacy's war effort. Although looting had been forbidden, there was much senseless destruction of private property. On several occasions, the Second Regiment was ordered to occupy a village and see that nobody set fire to private homes. However, when the troops had left the town and gone only a short distance, they would find it in flames. The army was accompanied by stragglers called "bummers," men who had escaped from the control of their officers, and it was this element which largely was responsible for the destruction which poisoned relations between North and South for years.

After the capture of Savannah, Ga., the Second Regiment marched north through South Carolina and North Carolina to Richmond. The Confederate forces no longer were strong enough to make effective resistance. In the Battle of Bentonville, two Minnesota men were wounded. The army continued to live by foraging until contact was made with railroads and rivers under the control of Federal armies. In April, Col. Bishop became brevet brigadier general.

In May, the Second Regiment took part in President Johnson's Grand Review in Washington of the Army of the Potomac and Sherman's army. The Minnesotans were ending four years of service during which 74 men were killed in action, 200 men were wounded and 167 died of disease and accident. Rarely was a man missing and those unable to answer roll call either were dead or in the hospital.

Their tumultuous welcome home was befitting to men who had driven the Confederates from their fortifications on Missionary Ridge, then had held their position for 20 minutes, under artillery fire, until the rest of the brigade came up.

THIRD MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENT

In September, 1861, Gov. Ramsey received a call for two more regiments, the Third and Fourth Regiments, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. This time the ranks did not fill up as quickly. News of the casualties at Mill Springs and Bull Run had had a sobering effect on the Union and its young men had begun to realize that war was not a gay adventure.

The Third Regiment had an unfortunate history which should

not be allowed to reflect on the personal bravery of its men. The regiment left Fort Snelling November 17, 1861, on three steamboats. Commander was Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Smith with Maj. John A. Hadley second in command.

The Minnesotans reported to Shepardsville, Ky., where they spent the winter guarding railroads and bridges as part of the Sixteenth Brigade, Army of the Ohio, under Gen. Buell.

At this time the colonel of the regiment arrived. He was Henry C. Lester who had served bravely as captain of Company K, First Minnesota Regiment. His efficiency in drilling and training his men, his concern for their welfare had earned him the confidence of the regiment.

In March, 1862, the Third Minnesota arrived in Nashville, an advance made possible by Union victories at Forts Henry and Donelson and at Mill Springs. Lt. Col. Smith and Maj. Hadley had resigned because of illness and had been succeeded by Everett W. Foster and Hans Mattson.

The Battle of Shiloh was being fought and Gen. Halleck's fruitless siege of Corinth, Miss., was about to begin. Gen. Buell was preparing to advance on Chattanooga. The Third Minnesota was sent to Murfreesboro, a station on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, a strategic rail center, a key to communications and the location of vital supplies for Gen. Buell's army.

On July 13, 1862, Confederate Gen. Forrest attacked Murfreesboro with three regiments including some 1,500 men. The Union forces were under the command of Gen. T. T. Crittenden who had arrived only the day before and was at once captured in a house in the town. The Federal troops were scattered, with five companies of the Ninth Michigan east of town and another company occupying the court house. With the Ninth Michigan were 80 men of the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry and about the same number of men from the Fourth Kentucky Cavalry.

Over a mile to the west were nine companies of the Third Minnesota Infantry and two sections of Hewitt's Kentucky Field Artillery. One company of the Third Minnesota was at Shelbyville guarding a supply train.

The Confederates attacked the Michigan troops east of town early in the morning. The men put up a stiff resistance through the forenoon but finally surrendered after being overpowered. Meanwhile, Col. Lester drew up his troops in battle line. He held them there all morning, making no move to relieve the Michigan regiment although he had been urged to do so by several of his captains.

The Confederates next attacked and destroyed the Third

Minnesota's camp half a mile away, overpowering a camp guard of 20 men under Corporal Greene who fought bravely. (Greene Township in Morrison County has been named in his honor.)

Col. Lester refused to permit his command to march to the defense of their camp. Now he was confronted with an audacious demand for the surrender of his regiment. Overestimating Gen. Forrest's strength at 2,500 men, Col. Lester called his captains together and urged surrender. Maj. Mattson was ill and absent. Lt. Col. Griggs and four captains, Foster, Andrews, Hoit and Taylor, voted against surrender while four supported the colonel. After some of the dissenting captains had returned to their companies, the colonel reopened the discussion and secured a vote for surrender. One company commander who arrived late was not allowed to record his vote against surrender.

And so, much to the Confederates' astonishment, the regiment was handed over before the men in its ranks had been able to show their fighting qualities.

"The announcement of surrender was received by the men with sorrow and indignation too deep for utterance," wrote Gen. C. C. Andrews, who had been one of the dissenting captains, in his account of the regiment in "Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars." "They silently, though with tears in their eyes, gave up the well-kept arms which, through many months of hard service, they had honored."

This surrender of men who were not even given a chance to defend themselves must be blamed on Col. Lester, it is generally agreed. An efficient officer under another's command, he apparently was unable to make decisions when he himself was in command. Unfortunately, he had so gained the respect of his subordinate officers that a few were willing to trust his judgement rather than their own. Just as disgraceful as the surrender was Col. Lester's failure to go to the aid of the Michigan troops and of the little band which defended his own camp.

The surrender produced serious results. Gen. Buell's communications were cut. Confederate Gen. Bragg was able to advance toward the Ohio and Gen. Buell was forced to race him for that river, a race in which the Second Minnesota took part.

Three of the captured officers escaped. After several months in prison, the rest of the officers were paroled. The enlisted men, too, soon were paroled. They were received in the Union ranks under humiliating conditions and blamed for a decision over which they had had no control. Unable to fight again against the South because of the terms of parole, the men were sent to St. Louis, Mo., and then ordered back to Minnesota to take part



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society
Painting in State Capitol, St. Paul

Third Minnesota Infantry Regiment entering Little Rock, Ark.
Painted by Stanley M. Arthur, the regiment is shown with Gen. C.
C. Andrews in the lead.

in the Sioux War. Company C, which had been at Shelbyville during this unfortunate affair, was sent to Nashville and attached to the Second Minnesota. Later it also was ordered home to join in the Indian War.

In December, President Lincoln dismissed Col. Lester and the officers who had supported him in his decision to surrender. The Minnesota governor reorganized the regiment with Lt. Col. Griggs as colonel, and Capt. C. C. Andrews as lieutenant colonel.

The regiment was ordered south again in January, 1863. At Columbus, Ky., the regiment became part of the Sixth Division, Sixteenth Corps, in Grant's Army of the Tennessee.

The regiment participated in Grant's siege of Vicksburg, Miss., building fortifications on Haines' Bluff and Snyder's Bluff to the rear of Grant's army. These fortifications were designed to prevent Gen. Johnston's forces from attempting to relieve the siege with a rear attack on Grant's army. The men did their work so well and the fortifications were so formidable that Gen. Johnston thought it prudent not to attack. As a result, Gen. Pemberton surrendered the city.

After the fall of Vicksburg, the Third Minnesota was sent to Helena, Ark., to take part in the occupation of that state. Col. Griggs having resigned, Lt. Col. Andrews became colonel. Sickness plagued the regiment as it moved west. In August, 52 of 414 men were down with malaria.

Little Rock surrendered in September, 1863, after a small battle in which the Third Minnesota played a minor part. Because of the regiment's excellent discipline, it was chosen as one of two regiments to form the Little Rock garrison. Col. Andrews was in command of the city and the conduct of the men earned the good will of the people. By the winter of 1864, a loyal state government had been elected and installed, much to President Lincoln's satisfaction.

By this time, terms of enlistment for many of the men had expired and the majority of them went home on furlough granted to those who re-enlisted.

In March, 1864, Confederate Gen. Rae was reported to be recruiting around Augusta, Ark., and Col. Andrews was ordered to put a stop to it. With six companies of the Third Minnesota and a troop of the Eighth Missouri Cavalry, he ascended the White River escorted by the gunboat Covington. This expedition, which was entirely successful, resulted in a small battle in Fitzhugh's Woods in which the regiment lost seven men killed.

In April, Col. Andrews was promoted to brigadier general and still later, to brevet major general. He became commander of the Third Division of the Seventh Corps. Lt. Col. Mattson became colonel of the Third Minnesota.

During the summer of 1864, the Third Regiment was stationed at Pine Bluff, Ark. The men suffered severely from malaria and 30 died of the disease. The next fall and winter, however, they were transferred to Duvall's Bluff where conditions were better.

In the spring, Confederate Gen. Jeff Thompson came in to surrender his command, and here the regiment was mustered out of service September 2, 1865. Only 432 men remained on the muster rolls out of 1,417 who at one time or another had been members of the regiment.

During the war the Third Minnesota lost eight men killed in action, seven of them at Fitzhugh's Woods. There were additional deaths in battle in the Sioux War, but the regiment's serious losses in the South were due to disease, chiefly malaria.

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Early in the war as the Union forces met their initial defeats, it became clear that the rebellion of the Southern states would

not be put down in a summer's campaign. The nation girded itself for a long struggle and the Northern states mustered regiment after regiment in response to President Lincoln's calls for troops. Minnesota regiments found themselves fighting side by side so that their battle experiences, as the war went on, were similar.

Beginning in the summer of 1862, the newly-recruited Fifth through the Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiments remained in Minnesota to fight the Sioux Indians in 1862-3. Then they were ordered south to join, for the most part, the Armies of the Mississippi and the Tennessee.

Thus the Third, Fourth and Fifth Regiments were at Vicksburg together; the Fourth and Fifth at Corinth, Iuka and Yazoo Pass; the Fifth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth at Tupelo, Nashville and, with the Sixth, at Mobile Bay.

FOURTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENT

The military career of the Fourth Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry also resembled that of the Second Regiment. Recruited at the same time as the Third Minnesota, the Fourth Regiment left Fort Snelling April 20, 1862, on two steamboats and arrived three days later at Benton Barracks, Mo.

John B. Sanborn, who had been adjutant general of Minnesota, was appointed colonel and Minor T. Thomas was transferred from the First Minnesota to become lieutenant colonel. Also transferred as major was A. Edwards Welsh but when it developed that he was a prisoner in the South, Capt. L. L. Baxter was named major instead.

Early in May, the Fourth Regiment left St. Louis by boat, traveling down the Mississippi and up the Tennessee River to Hamburg Landing where it joined Gen. Halleck's army besieging Corinth. The Minnesota men became part of the First Brigade, Third Division, Army of the Mississippi. They had left Minnesota with about 1,000 men but malaria and typhoid fever had reduced almost by half the number of men fit for duty.

In September, the Fourth Minnesota participated in the Battle of Iuka, losing three killed and 44 wounded. Then followed the Battle of Corinth and the campaign down the Mississippi Central Railroad during which large numbers of slaves came within Union lines.

The Fourth Regiment took part in the complicated maneuvers around Vicksburg and in the Yazoo Pass expedition. The latter was a perilous undertaking which Grant abandoned when he realized that such a route to Vicksburg was not feasible. Here

the regiment lost one man killed.

Grant's next move was to send gunboats down the Mississippi to run past the Confederate shore batteries at Vicksburg. His army, including the Minnesota Regiment, embarked upon one of the most difficult marches of the war, 60 miles from Milliken's Bend to a point opposite Grand Gulf, all of it over muddy roads that were almost bottomless pits. The men were mired to their knees and 12 to 18 horses were needed to draw a single gun or gun carriage. The Fourth Minnesota marched steadily for three days, resting only a few hours each day.

After crossing to the east bank of the Mississippi at Grand Gulf, the regiment joined in the Battle of Champion Hills. Two men were wounded. The men pushed on toward Vicksburg where the Fourth Minnesota took part in the fruitless attempt to take Vicksburg by assault. At one point, the Minnesota regiment actually gained the enemy's fortifications and remained there several hours until darkness. When ordered to withdraw, the troops had to abandon their wounded.

Grant then settled down to a siege of the city, which finally yielded on July 4th. The Fourth Minnesota had lost 12 men killed and 42 wounded in the attempted storming of the city. Following the surrender of Vicksburg, the regiment remained there for several months, suffering greatly from sickness. In August, of 631 men on the rolls only 325 were present for duty. Nearly all those absent were sick in hospitals.

Col. Sanborn was promoted to brigadier general and, as the war drew to a close, to brevet major general. Lt. Col. John E. Tourtelotte took command. In September, 1863, the Fourth Minnesota was ordered to Helena, Ark., to take part in occupation of the state. This was the same expedition in which the Third Minnesota played a part but the occupation had gone forward so rapidly that when the Fourth Regiment arrived, it was no longer needed. Therefore, the troops were attached to Sherman's army and marched to the relief of Rosecrans' troops, of which the Second Minnesota was a part, besieged in Chattanooga. At the Battle of Chattanooga, the regiment's strength was down to 261 officers and men. One man was lost in battle.

The men's terms of enlistment were about to expire. Most re-enlisted, went home on furlough, and returned in time to take part in the Battle of Altoona in which a strong Confederate attack was repulsed. The regiment lost 13 killed and 31 wounded. The men captured the flags of the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-ninth Mississippi Regiments.



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society
Painting in State Capitol, St. Paul

Fourth Minnesota Infantry Regiment entering Vicksburg. Painted by Francis D. Millet, this scene shows the troops led by Brig. Gen. John B. Sanborn on horseback. In the distance is the Vicksburg courthouse.

From this point until the end of the war, the career of the Fourth Minnesota was similar to that of the Second Minnesota Regiment. As part of Sherman's army, the Fourth took part in the March to the Sea and the capture of Savannah, marched north through the Carolinas' bottomless roads, heavy rains and flooded streams, and stood by in reserve at the Battle of Bentonville where three men were wounded.

The men of the Fourth marched at the head of Sherman's army in the grand review of the army before President Johnson in May of 1865, then were sent to Louisville, Ky., for mustering out. Col. Tourtelotte remained in the regular army as a professional soldier.

FIFTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENT

In the first call sent out by President Lincoln for 500,000 soldiers to serve three years, Minnesota was assigned five



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society
Painting in State Capitol, St. Paul

Fifth Minnesota Infantry Regiment at the Battle of Corinth. This painting by Edwin Blashfield shows the troops as they rushed to drive back Confederates who had penetrated Union lines.

regiments. Numerically, then, the Fifth Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was the last of these, but in reality two or three other regiments were being organized at the same time--in the fall of 1861.

The Fifth Regiment was delayed at home long enough to be caught in the Sioux War which broke out in southern Minnesota in August, 1862. It was the custom to send some companies of each new regiment to the frontier forts for training. The preceding regiments had only trained on the frontier, but the Fifth Minnesota also had to fight. Out of the 101 soldiers of this regiment who died in battle, 38 were killed in the Sioux War.

The Fifth Minnesota was organized with 860 men; 303 joined later, making a total muster of 1,163. The organization was completed on March 20, 1862, and Rudolph von Borgersrode was appointed colonel; Lucius F. Hubbard, lieutenant colonel, and William B. Gere, major. Col. von Borgersrode resigned in August and was succeeded by Lt. Col. Hubbard who remained in command throughout the war. Before the war ended, however, he was advanced to the rank of brevet brigadier general.

In late May, seven companies of the Fifth Regiment were sent south where they became part of the Second Brigade, First Division, Army of the Mississippi, which was engaged in the siege of Corinth. The Second and Fourth Minnesota regiments also took part in this siege. Almost immediately, the Fifth Regiment was involved in the Battle of Farmington, Miss. Next came the Battle of Iuka and the later Battle of Corinth where the regi-

ment turned the tide of battle by charging and driving back Confederate forces which had penetrated the Union lines.

Chaplain of the regiment at this time was a young Roman Catholic priest who won his men's respect for his courage under fire. The Rev. John Ireland, future archbishop of St. Paul, served with the bravery which has been traditional among chaplains of the nation's armed forces.

The Fifth Regiment joined Gen. Grant's forces before the Confederate stronghold at Vicksburg. The three companies that had been fighting the Sioux now rejoined the regiment which was detached to help chase Forrest's cavalry out of west Tennessee. Rejoining Grant's army, the Fifth Minnesota took part in the unsuccessful Yazoo Pass expedition, then marched from Milliken's Bend to Grand Gulf with the Fourth Regiment. From Grand Gulf, the Fifth Regiment took part in operations which drove Confederate Gen. Johnston's forces eastward and captured Jackson, capital of Mississippi. The regiment also fought in the trenches at Vicksburg in the attempt to take the city by assault.

After the surrender of Vicksburg, the Fifth Minnesota became part of the Second Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Corps. In the spring of 1864, the Corps was sent to Louisiana to take part in the Red River expedition with the Army of the Gulf under Gen. Banks. The expedition was a failure. The Sixteenth Corps was not present at the Battle of Sabine Crossroads where the Union army met defeat. The regiment did take part in the Battle of Chicot defeating Confederate Gen. Marmaduke who was building forts in an attempt to close the river to Federal shipping.

Back in northern Mississippi the regiment fought in the Battle of Tupelo, Miss., then was sent with the Sixteenth Corps to Arkansas where it chased Confederate Gen. Price across that state and Missouri into Kansas.

The Corps then was ordered to Nashville to join the army of Gen. Thomas who was awaiting an attack by Confederate Gen. Hood. The resulting Battle of Nashville on December 15 and 16, 1864, was one of the great engagements of the war and marked the war's end in the West.

Four Minnesota regiments, the Fifth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth Minnesota Infantry Regiments, took part in the infantry charge on the second day of the battle which put the Confederate army to flight. The Minnesotans were part of Gen. McArthur's First Division of Gen. A. J. Smith's Sixteenth Corps. Two were brigaded together--the Fifth and the Ninth in the Second Brigade, while the Seventh served in the Third Brigade and the Tenth in the First Brigade.

On the morning of December 16, the entire army was on the move across the plain just outside of Nashville, in battle lines three and four deep; the skirmishers first, then the column of infantry divisions, the regimental field and staff next, followed by the batteries, the brigade, division and corps commanders and lastly by the surgeons, stretcher-bearers and ambulance corps.

Under heavy fire, the First Division moved into position facing the Confederates' earthworks 300 yards away, then dug intrenchments. Lying there, the four Minnesota regiments formed, with the exception of the Twelfth Iowa, an almost unbroken front line in a position so exposed that horses were sent to the rear. One company was deployed as skirmishers 100 yards from the enemy line, a position they held until the final charge.

About 3 o'clock in the afternoon, with a cold rain falling, the division's artillery was brought up and massed behind the infantry lines. A thundering artillery duel began.

"Every man in both armies knew this meant a general charge of the Union lines and our men adjusted their cartridge boxes and prepared to spring forward at the word of command," wrote C. F. MacDonald, historian of the Ninth Regiment, in "Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars."

"At 4 o'clock our artillery suddenly ceased firing. The signal was given and with a shout which was heard in Nashville, the men sprang from the ground and charged forward across the cornfield which lay between them and the enemy."

As the men rose to their feet they met a withering fire from the enemy. Immediately, the attacking lines thinned, but they stumbled forward, over a muddy, uneven field, charging until they had swept over the enemy's earthworks, seized guns, battle-flags and prisoners without firing a shot.

The battle was won but the toll was heavy. The Minnesota regiments lost almost 300 men; 106 men of the Fifth Minnesota dead or wounded; 55 dead or wounded from the Seventh; 58 from the Ninth and 77 from the Tenth. The Fifth Minnesota not only had the heaviest losses but suffered more severely than at any other time during the war.

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Early in February, 1865, the Sixteenth Corps was sent to New Orleans, placed on transports and landed on Dauphin Island just outside Mobile Bay. Here, picnics brought temporary respite from the war. Large oyster beds lay just off the island and oysters were collected by the wagonload for the soldiers. Some, according to one regimental historian, never ate oysters again.



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Positions of Gen. A. J. Smith's Corps which included the Fifth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth Minnesota Infantry Regiments during the Battle of Nashville, December 15 and 16, 1864.

The Fifth Minnesota, together with the Sixth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth Minnesota Regiments, soon moved to the east shore of Mobile Bay, invested Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely which were taken with slight resistance, and occupied Mobile.

The regiments were marching north toward Montgomery when they received news that Lee had surrendered. The Fifth Minnesota was mustered out in September, 1865, at Fort Snelling. Only 370 men of the Fifth remained to be discharged. The regiment had taken part in 13 campaigns, five sieges and 34 battles and skirmishes.

The Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Regiments Minnesota Volunteer Infantry were recruited in the summer and fall of

1862 following a call from President Lincoln for 300,000 more men in July of that year and another call in August for a like number.

SIXTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENT

The Sixth Regiment was organized a little ahead of the others. William Crooks, who had been a West Point cadet and who was superintendent of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, a road with only 10 miles of track from St. Paul to Minneapolis, was appointed colonel. John T. Averill was lieutenant colonel, and Robert N. McLaren, major.

The Sixth Regiment was completing its organization when the Sioux War broke out and the adjutant general of the state ordered it to the frontier for nearly two years. In the spring of 1864, the First Minnesota's term of enlistment was about to expire and Col. Crooks attempted to arrange for the Sixth Regiment to replace the First Minnesota in the First Brigade, First Division, Second Corps. He wrote Gen. W. S. Hancock, second corps commander, and secured an order dispatching the regiment to Washington. However, on June 1 Secretary of War Stanton ordered the Sixth Minnesota to Helena, Ark. Sen. M. S. Wilkinson attempted to have the order changed but he was unable to do so. As a result, the Sixth Regiment's experiences were unfortunate.

The regiment left Fort Snelling June 14 with 954 men and traveled by boat to Dunleith, Ill., by rail to Cairo and by boat to Helena, arriving June 23. Helena was surrounded by malaria-infested swamps. The Third Regiment also had been sent there but had moved on quickly to Little Rock where conditions were better.

Within a week, 111 men of the Sixth Minnesota were sick. By the end of July, 462 were ill and by the end of September, 654. Many men were sent to hospitals up the river. Seldom were more than 200 men fit for duty and at one time only 26 were able to report for duty. In all, 121 men died at Helena, most from malaria.

The Sixth Minnesota's objective was to contain bands of guerrillas and the remnants of Confederate Gen. Price's forces in eastern Arkansas. In November, 1864, the regiment was ordered to St. Louis where it remained until the last of January, 1865. Then it was ordered to New Orleans where it joined the Fifth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth Regiments in the Sixteenth Corps in the expedition to Dauphin Island, Mobile Bay and Montgomery.

The Sixth Minnesota suffered no battle deaths in the South.

Col. Crooks resigned in October, 1864, to be succeeded by Lt. Col. Averill who remained as acting provost marshal general and did not join the regiment. Lt. Col. Hiram P. Grant assumed command. Col. Averill was soon promoted to brevet brigadier general. The Sixth Regiment was mustered out in August, 1865.

SEVENTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENT

The Seventh Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry fought the Sioux but was sent south after a year in Indian country. Lt. Col. Stephen Miller of the First Minnesota was named colonel; William R. Marshall, lieutenant colonel, and George Bradley, major. Col. Miller was promoted to brigadier general soon after the regiment left for the South and Lt. Col. Marshall became colonel, then brevet brigadier general as the war drew to a close. Both men later became governors.

The Seventh Minnesota left Fort Snelling October 7, 1863, for Schofield Barracks, St. Louis, where they spent the winter guarding prisoners and stragglers and furnishing military escorts to government supply ships.

In June, 1864, the regiment was sent to Memphis to join the Third Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Corps, to which the Fifth Minnesota also belonged.

In July, the Seventh Minnesota was heavily engaged at the Battle of Tupelo, losing 10 men killed and 52 wounded. In September it joined in chasing Confederate Gen. Price into Kansas, and in December it fought at Nashville where the regiment lost seven killed and 48 wounded. With the Sixteenth Corps, the Seventh Regiment then took part in the final expedition to New Orleans, Mobile Bay and Montgomery.

The regiment had enrolled 1,135 men; 21 were killed in battle, and 126 died from wounds and disease, some of them in the Sioux War. There remained 603 men to be discharged at war's end at Fort Snelling.

Like many other Civil War regiments, the Seventh Minnesota suffered greatly from climate and lack of equipment. From June, 1864, to May, 1865, the men had no tents and during the frequent winter rains had to sleep four together on a rubber blanket with another rubber blanket held over them by stakes. Conditions such as these resulted in serious losses from illness.

EIGHTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENT

The Eighth Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was organ-

ized in August, 1862, and ordered at once to duty in the Sioux War. Hence, it did not leave for the South until late in October, 1864. The companies in the Dakota territory floated down the Missouri River to Sioux City, Iowa, then went by train to Chicago. Those at Fort Snelling left on a small steamboat and open barges. It was cold and raining.

At LaCrosse they boarded cattle cars with no seats. Several times the train came apart and once the engine ran off the track. Eventually, the men arrived at Murfreesboro where the regiment was reunited. Lt. Col. Minor T. Thomas of the Fourth Regiment was named colonel of the Eighth; Henry C. Rogers, lieutenant colonel, and George A. Camp, major.

While other Minnesota regiments were fighting in the Battle of Nashville, the Eighth Minnesota fought the Battle of Murfreesboro in December, 1864, winning a victory in the place where the Third Minnesota had been humiliated two years previously. Casualties were 91 dead and wounded.

The regiment, now part of the Third Brigade, First Division, Twenty-third Corps, was ordered to North Carolina after Christmas, traveling by steamboat down the Tennessee, up the Ohio River and across Ohio by rail when the river was filled with floating ice. Arriving in Washington, the regiment was sent by boat down the Potomac, through Chesapeake Bay into the Atlantic to join an attack on Wilmington, Del. The city, however, already had surrendered. The Minnesota men then marched toward Goldsboro, N. C., in time to take part in the Battle of Kinston.

After Lee's surrender, the regiment remained at Charlotte, N. C., until July, when it was ordered home.

NINTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENT

The Ninth Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was organized in August, 1862, with Alexander Wilkin as colonel; Josiah F. Marsh, lieutenant colonel, and William Markham, major. After action in the Sioux War, the regiment was ordered south in October, 1863, and, after a winter spent guarding railroads, joined Gen. Sturgis' army on an ill-fated expedition into Mississippi.

Near Brice's Cross Roads, Miss., Sturgis' cavalry encountered Confederate Gen. Forrest's cavalry and on June 10, 1864, forced the Battle of Guntown, so named by the Federals after a near-by village. The Confederates had about 3,500 men and the Union army about 8,000. The day was fearfully hot and sultry, and the Minnesota men had been marching rapidly with little rest. Now

they were ordered into action on the double-quick. Many, exhausted and fainting, fell out of the ranks. At least one died from sunstroke.

Gen. Sturgis made the mistake of ordering each regiment to engage the enemy as soon as it arrived at the scene of action, with no protection whatsoever for its flanks. As a result, the Confederates defeated the Federals in a fierce, all-day battle.

Col. Wilkin had been placed in command of the First Brigade, while Lt. Col. Marsh commanded the Ninth Minnesota with 30 officers and 635 men mustered for duty. Late in the afternoon the Ninth Regiment was ordered to fall back and was the last to leave the field.

All through the long night and into the next day the Ninth Regiment remained at the rear of the retreating column, forming a rear guard which protected the fleeing Union army for more than 20 miles. The Ninth fought fiercely much of the way. Nor was there any relief the next day or the next for the weary Minnesotans. Not until they had stumbled upon a railroad track on June 13 and flagged down a train bringing reinforcements from Memphis did the long retreat end.

In all, the retreat, under constant harassment from the victorious Confederates, covered 60 miles. The Minnesota Regiment lost 259 officers and men taken prisoner; 20 of them were wounded and nine killed. The survivors arrived in Memphis with much of their equipment lost.

Much reduced in size, the Ninth Regiment became part of the Second Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Corps, along with the Fifth, Seventh and Tenth Minnesota Regiments. In July, the three Minnesota Regiments took part in the Battle of Tupelo, a Union victory. Two men of the Ninth Regiment were killed, including Col. Wilkin who had led them throughout the hazardous retreat from Guntown. He was the highest ranking soldier from Minnesota to lose his life during the Civil War.

Next, the Ninth Minnesota helped clear Confederate Gen. Price's forces from Arkansas and Missouri. By this time the regiment had been further reduced by sickness. Col. Marsh was ill and absent and Lt. Col. Markham commanded the small force--only 255 officers and men present for duty. The rapid marching in pursuit of Gen. Price took further toll. At the end of a two-month period, more than two-thirds of the men were absent and Maj. H. B. Strait was in command.

The Ninth Minnesota was sent to Tennessee where it took part in the Battle of Nashville, losing 18 men killed and 40



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society
Painting in State Capitol, St. Paul

Minnesota's Fifth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth Infantry Regiments at the Battle of Nashville. This painting by Howard Pyle is regarded as one of the greatest war paintings of modern times. Tattered flags flying, the men stumble across a muddy cornfield to charge enemy lines. Pools of water from the afternoon's rain still lie on the ground.

wounded. Col. Marsh was again in command. Next the regiment was ordered to New Orleans to join the expedition against Mobile. The war ended as the men were marching toward Montgomery. By August, the regiment was back at Fort Snelling for mustering out. Thirty-five men had been killed in battle but 220 had died of disease and accident.

TENTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENT

The Tenth Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was the last of the regiments organized in the late summer of 1862. James H. Baker was appointed colonel; Samuel P. Jennison, lieutenant colonel, and Michael Cook, major. Jennison had been transferred from the Second Regiment and both he and Baker ended the war as brevet brigadier generals.

The career of the Tenth Minnesota parallels closely that of the Ninth, except that it was not involved in the disastrous Battle of Guntown. After a year's service in the Sioux War, the Tenth

Minnesota was sent to St. Louis in October, 1863, for garrison duty. In April, 1864, the regiment proceeded to Tennessee where it joined the First Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Corps.

The regiment fought in the Battle of Tupelo, losing one man killed and 12 wounded. It took part in the expedition against Confederate Gen. Price, then returned to Tennessee where it fought the Battle of Nashville, losing 19 killed and 55 wounded of 301 men present for duty. Lt. Col. Jennison was severely wounded and Maj. Cook and Capt. White mortally wounded.

The Tenth regiment then took part in the expedition to Mobile Bay and Montgomery and was mustered out in August, 1865.

FIRST COMPANY, MINNESOTA SHARPSHOOTERS

The First Company of Minnesota Sharpshooters was mustered in during October, 1861. It was organized at the request of the war department by Capt. Francis Peteler, a veteran of the Mexican War, who soon was promoted to colonel. Four officers and 104 men, selected for their skill as marksmen, belonged to the company.

Ordered to Washington in February, 1862, the company became part of the Second Regiment, United States Sharpshooters, an organization in which each company came from a different state.

Attached to the Army of the Potomac, the company fought in many battles, usually on skirmish duty so the men did not take part in the charges and hand-to-hand fighting that inflicted heavy casualties in regiments like the First Minnesota.

The company was engaged all three days at Chancellorsville and again at Gettysburg where it helped repulse Pickett's charge. Early in the war, the company was part of the "Iron Brigade," First Division, Third Corps, whose general was killed at Gettysburg. After Gen. Grant took command in Virginia, the Third Corps was abolished and the company became part of the Third Division, Second Corps. Throughout the war, the company lost nine men killed or dead of wounds; seven died of disease.

SECOND COMPANY, MINNESOTA SHARPSHOOTERS

The Second Company Minnesota Sharpshooters was organized in the winter of 1861-1862 with 101 men and three officers. William F. Russell was appointed captain. Ordered to Washington in April 1862, the company took part in the Peninsula Campaign as part of the First Regiment United States Sharpshooters.

In May it became Company L of the First Minnesota Regiment

and for a year shared the perils and achievements of the First, usually on the skirmish line. It suffered greatly from sickness during the Peninsular Campaign and went into the Battle of Antietam with only 42 men present. One man was killed and 19 wounded. It was present at Gettysburg as support for the First United States Artillery and helped beat off the Confederate attack on the last day of the battle.

Parted from the First Minnesota, the company was assigned as provost guard for the headquarters of the Second Division, Second Corps. Only 42 men remained in the company, 42 others having been discharged for wounds or sickness and 21 taken prisoner. The company went through the Battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor and the siege of Petersburg, Va. When its three-year term of enlistment was up in the fall of 1864, only 30 men remained. Eighteen re-enlisted and were transferred to the First Minnesota Battalion. In all, the company lost four men killed in action.

BRACKETT'S BATTALION OF CAVALRY

Brackett's Battalion of Cavalry was organized in September, 1861, served throughout the entire war and was mustered out in the summer of 1866. At first the battalion had three companies but in January, 1864, 84 men who had been fighting the Sioux in the First Regiment Mounted Rangers, and a few recruits formed a fourth company. Maj. Alfred B. Brackett commanded the battalion. He later became brevet colonel.

In 1861, the three companies were made part of the Fifth Iowa Cavalry. For the most part, the men scouted to gain information on the enemy, operating day and night in all weather. In the Fort Donelson campaign, they guarded wagon trains, destroyed enemy bridges, carried messages, the men remaining in the saddle almost continuously for several days. During the Battle of Shiloh and the siege of Corinth, they scouted, built bridges, set up telegraph lines and destroyed enemy property.

The battalion skirmished, scouted, raided in Kentucky and Tennessee, fought in the Second and Third Battles of Donelson and the Battle of Clarksville.

Large numbers of runaway Negroes, called contrabands, often took refuge in the cavalry camp. One day a Kentucky slave owner came into camp looking for his property. He found his slaves and received a pass to leave camp, but since it covered only one person, he had to go home without the slaves.



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Civil War battle flags on display in capitol. The First Minnesota's regimental flag which was riddled with shot at the first Battle of Bull Run is preserved here as are flags from other Minnesota regiments who fought in the nation's wars.

In June, 1863, the battalion became part of the First Brigade, Cavalry Division, Fourteenth Corps, Army of the Cumberland. The Tullahoma Campaign which followed involved incessant activity in country difficult for horses and 1,000 horses were needed as replacements.

For 10 days during October, 1863, the Federal cavalry under Gen. Crook engaged in almost continuous fighting with Gen. Forrest and his cavalry, finally driving him across the Tennessee River. On one occasion, Brackett's Battalion fought with sabers against the Sixth Texas Cavalry.

In January, 1864, the battalion's service in the South ended. Three men had been killed in battle and 14 had died of disease.

Most of the men re-enlisted. Sen. Ramsey induced the war department to separate the battalion from the Iowa regiment and order it to duty against the Sioux.

FIRST BATTERY, LIGHT ARTILLERY

The First Battery Light Artillery Minnesota Volunteers was mustered into service in November, 1861. The following January, the battery, commanded by Capt. Emil Munch, received its armament of four brass rifled cannon and two 12-pound howitzers. At Shiloh the battery, along with an Ohio battery, was in the front area on the first day of battle and bore a large part of the burden of holding back the Confederate attacks.

The Minnesotans were held in reserve on the second day of the battle, took part in the siege of Corinth and the later Battle of Corinth and were engaged continuously during the siege of Vicksburg. At this time, its brass cannon were replaced by four three-inch Rodman rifled cannon.

After Vicksburg the Seventeenth Corps, to which the First Minnesota Battery was attached, participated in the operation leading up to the Battle of Atlanta. During the siege of Atlanta, the battery fought in the Battle of Ezra Church where Lt. William Koethe was killed. Then followed the March to the Sea, the capture of Savannah and the march north through the Carolinas.

At Cheraw, S. C., the battery fought its last engagement. Here they did so well that the corps commander, Maj. Gen. Frank P. Blair honored them with the presentation of a captured Blakely cannon of English manufacture.

The battery took part in the grand review before President Johnson, then was mustered out in July, 1865. Six men had been killed and 25 died of disease.

SECOND BATTERY, LIGHT ARTILLERY

The Second Battery Light Artillery Minnesota Volunteers also was organized during the winter of 1861-1862. The following April, it received its armament. Arriving at Pittsburgh Landing where the Battle of Shiloh had been fought, the battery, now attached to Gen. Buell's army, took part in the retreat in which Buell raced Bragg for the Ohio, a retreat caused in part by the Third Minnesota's surrender at Murfreesboro.

As part of the Third Corps, the Second Battery was engaged all day during the Battle of Perryville in October, 1862. Six men were wounded.

The following December, the battery fought in the Battle of Murfreesboro. The next June it went through the Tullahoma campaign and in September it fought at Chickamauga where Lt. Albert Woodbury was mortally wounded. Late that fall, the battery fought in the Battle of Missionary Ridge, where the Second Minnesota Infantry Regiment distinguished itself.

When the men's terms of enlistment expired, many of them re-enlisted. Mounted as cavalry, they scouted for information about enemy movements, garrisoned forts at Chattanooga and escorted herds of cattle destined for army consumption. Their losses during the war were six men killed or died of wounds and 18 who died of disease.

ELEVENTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENT

Two Minnesota regiments were organized when the Civil War was drawing to a close and saw limited service. The Eleventh Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was organized in September, 1864, after a final call for troops. James B. Gilfillan, a captain in the Seventh Regiment, was named colonel; John Ball, a captain in the First Minnesota, lieutenant colonel, and Martin Maginnis, major.

The regiment of 1,005 men was ordered to the South at once to guard the Louisville and Nashville railroad against guerrilla bands. The men could hear the distant sound of the battles for Nashville and Franklin but took no part. Only casualties were two men who wandered away contrary to orders and were killed by guerrillas; 19 others died of disease. By June, 1865, the regiment was back in Minnesota for mustering out.

FIRST REGIMENT, HEAVY ARTILLERY

The First Regiment Heavy Artillery Minnesota Volunteers enrolled 1,750 men between October, 1864, and February, 1865. Most famous veteran of this regiment was Pvt. Albert Woolson of Company D. By outliving all other survivors of the Union armies, he became the last of the "boys in blue."

Another famous veteran, Brevet Brig. Gen. William Colvill, formerly of the First Minnesota, was named colonel of the regiment; Luther L. Baxter, a major in the Fourth Minnesota, was named lieutenant colonel, and majors were Orlando Eddy of the Fifth Minnesota, C. P. Heffelfinger, of the First Minnesota, and David Misner of the Third Minnesota.

As fast as the companies were formed, they were sent south to man fortifications around Chattanooga. Since the war was nearing an end, the regiment took part in no battles but remained in service until September, 1865.

No less than 22 Minnesota men rose to the rank of general during the Civil War period. Of these, 14 became brevet brigadier general, two brigadier general, four brevet major general and two major general. Of these, two saw service in the Sioux War only. Most of these achieved their ranks as a result of meritorious service with the various Minnesota regiments but two won distinction in other ways.

In 1861, probably the most distinguished military figure from Minnesota was Brevet Maj. Gen. James Shields who had served a term as junior United States senator from Minnesota. In the Mexican War, he had served with distinction, having been wounded at the Battle of Cerro Gordo. He was then promoted to brigadier general.

Gen. Shields entered the army in 1861 and served until March, 1863, when he resigned. He commanded the army which won a victory at Winchester March 23, 1862, but was defeated at the Battle of Port Republic June 9, 1862. Before coming to Minnesota, Gen. Shields had been a political ally of Stephen A. Douglas and had been United States senator from Illinois. After the Civil War, he lived for a time in Missouri and was elected to the senate from that state, the only man ever elected to the United States senate from three different states.

The second to achieve high rank was William G. LeDuc from Hastings who entered the army in 1862 as a captain in the quartermaster department of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Second Corps, Army of the Potomac. Later he served with the Eleventh Corps and the Twentieth Corps. He was present at the Battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Atlanta and Nashville. After Antietam, he became a lieutenant colonel and, in 1865, a brevet brigadier general.

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It is not easy to sum up Minnesota's contribution to the Civil War. Records of transfers of men into other units are sometimes incomplete and it is difficult to separate the efforts by the people of Minnesota toward victory in the Civil War from the efforts which went simultaneously into the war with the Sioux.

The records of the Minnesota adjutant general's office show that 21,982 officers and men enlisted in the armed forces of the United States from Minnesota between 1861-1865. They were distributed as follows:

First Infantry Regiment.....	1,285
First Infantry Battalion	709
Second Infantry Regiment	1,782
Third Infantry Regiment.....	1,402
Fourth Infantry Regiment	1,601
Fifth Infantry Regiment.....	1,158
Sixth Infantry Regiment.....	1,253
Seventh Infantry Regiment.....	1,127
Eighth Infantry Regiment.....	1,041
Ninth Infantry Regiment.....	1,086
Tenth Infantry Regiment.....	1,090
Eleventh Infantry Regiment.....	1,005
First Regiment Mounted Rangers.....	1,284
Second Cavalry Regiment.....	1,347
Hatch's Battalion of Cavalry.....	720
Brackett's Battalion of Cavalry.....	613
First Regiment Heavy Artillery.....	1,750
First, Second and Third Batteries Light Artillery.....	694
First and Second Companies Sharpshooters.....	208
Miscellaneous substitutes and draftees.....	441
Three-months men.....	220
United States Engineers.....	94
Colored Troops.....	72
Total	21,982

Four of these regiments served only in the Sioux War. They were the First Regiment Mounted Rangers, the Second Cavalry Regiment, Hatch's Cavalry Battalion and the Third Battery of Light Artillery. Their experiences will be described in the next chapter.

Not all of these 21,982 men were in service at the same time, of course. Just how large the Minnesota forces were at any one time is not easy to determine. During 1861, only the first four Minnesota regiments with a small part of the Fifth were in service. Some 220 of the men who enlisted in the First Minnesota Regiment for three months did not re-enlist for three years.

There also were some duplications in personnel. When the Mounted Rangers, who enlisted for service against the Sioux, were mustered out in the fall of 1863, many enlisted in the Second Minnesota Cavalry. The First Minnesota was mustered out when its three-year enlistment period was up but was succeeded by the First Infantry Battalion made up of re-enlistments from the "Old First" plus recruits.

Nearly 4,000 Minnesota men who entered the army in late 1864 and 1865 saw limited service. In fact, Gov. Stephen Miller did not appoint the field officers of the First Regiment Heavy Artillery until April, 1865, although four companies of the regiment had been in service since the previous fall.

Minnesota also may have lost some men to Iowa and Wisconsin regiments. There were charges Wisconsin and Iowa agents were enticing men from the border counties into their outfits, but the practice may have worked both ways.

Minnesota also was fighting two wars at the same time. They were distinct as to causes, yet divided the loyalties and the attention of Minnesotans. There was no question as to which was the more important of the two conflicts, but the war with the Indians was serious and costly.

Early in the Civil War, service on the frontier was unpopular because the soldiers felt the war with the South might be over before the men could be sent to the front. Later, however, some of the men preferred duty against the Sioux.

Of all the units mustered from 1861 to 1865, only the First and Second Minnesota Infantry Regiments did not also serve against the Sioux at one time.

Taken together, in relation to the small population and resources of the infant state, the men and money expended in Minnesota during those war years certainly was greater than during World War I and compares favorably with World War II. One reason it is difficult to make exact comparisons is because Minnesota's wealth and population grew rapidly during the Civil War. The state census of 1865 listed 250,000 persons, an increase of 45 per cent over the federal census of 1850, and production of wheat, lumber and other products was growing even more rapidly.

Unfortunately, politics sometimes interfered with military affairs. Minnesota raised 11 infantry regiments, two cavalry regiments, a heavy artillery regiment, and five or six smaller units during the Civil War period. This contribution to the war effort would have been more effective if several of the regiments raised toward the war's end never had been organized and the recruits, instead, used to keep the earlier regiments at full strength.

However, Gov. Ramsey had to depend on local men for leadership in recruiting and many of these looked forward to a commission as a reward. Toward the end of the war, it became increasingly difficult to obtain recruits to fill out the ranks of the older regiments.

After the Sioux outbreak in August, 1862, many of the men--

particularly those whose homes were near Indian country--preferred service on the frontier. Some men fighting in the South even received permission to return to Minnesota to join in the Sioux War. Thus, Senior First Lt. William Pfaender of the First Battery of Light Artillery resigned to become lieutenant colonel of the First Regiment Mounted Rangers and later became lieutenant colonel of the Second Cavalry.

Finally, the war department ruled that no more promotions were to be made in the older regiments until more recruits became available. The officers of the older regiments clamored for more men to fill their ranks but with little success.

The result of the shortage of recruits was the draft law which went into effect in Minnesota in the spring of 1864. There were 14,274 persons in the state eligible for compulsory military service, of whom 11,234 were exempted. Of the rest, 272 furnished substitutes, 269 reported for duty, two reported and then deserted and the remaining 2,497 were supposed to report but failed to do so and nothing was done about it. In this group were probably most of the 272 substitutes and perhaps also quite a number who, unknown to the authorities, already had enlisted.

Generally, the draft was a failure in Minnesota, producing only 541 recruits while, in the same year, 2,972 men enlisted in new Minnesota regiments.

Casualties among the Minnesota troops during the four years between 1861 and 1865 totaled 635 officers and men killed in action, but almost three times as many--1,936--died as a result of disease and accident. Deaths from disease were far more numerous during the 1860s, compared with more recent wars. Science and medicine had made slight progress in the control of contagious diseases and germs and viruses as the cause of disease were virtually unknown.

Probably the greatest single cause of death in both Union and Confederate armies was typhoid fever from contaminated water in creeks and rivers where the men drank. Influenza, pneumonia and malaria, bred in humid swampy areas of the South, also took a large toll. No means were available for mosquito control, even if it had been known that mosquitoes carried malaria. The men who served in the Sioux War fared far better since in the cool, dry, almost arid sections of the northern states, the creeks and rivers were less likely to be contaminated and there were no malarial swamps.

Not only did Minnesota regiments lose men through death from disease but a considerable number were usually on the sick list. Each Minnesota regiment enrolled from 1,000 to 1,700 men; yet

only a fraction of them actually were present for duty at any one time. Many men received discharges because of disability, usually as the result of illness but sometimes from wounds or accidents.

Of the deaths in battle, 531 occurred during military operations in the South. The adjutant general's reports list 104 soldiers killed in the Sioux War. For the most part, casualties in the Sioux War were civilians--settlers on isolated farms and their families.

Treatment of battle wounds was only a little more advanced than treatment of disease. Sterilization of instruments and the use of antiseptics was not widespread and, though the surgeons did their best in the light of their knowledge at that time, wounds became infected, gangrene set in, amputations had to be performed often without anesthetic.

Care of the wounded was complicated by the fact that, without the mechanized equipment known today, it wasn't easy to move battle casualties from the field to the hospital quickly. Tragically enough, because of the ebb and flow of battle, the wounded sometimes had to be abandoned as they were after the disastrous Battle of Guntown when the Ninth Minnesota was forced to retreat past the wagons of wounded hopelessly mired in mud, leaving them to the mercy of the enemy.

During the Civil War, officers were permitted to resign and did so not infrequently. Many men also were transferred to other military organizations. Thus, some officers in the early regiments were promoted to higher ranks in later regiments. Nearly all Minnesota regiments lost men who received commissions as officers in the colored regiments which were organized in 1864.

Losses through desertions were not large but the losses of men captured by the enemy were serious. Worst loss of this type was that experienced by the Ninth Minnesota, again at Guntown. The Sharpshooters also lost men captured by the Confederates. The First Minnesota suffered the heaviest casualties in battle.

All Minnesota regiments received recruits but never in numbers large enough to make up for losses. Among the state troops in the South, there generally were not more than 500 men actually present for duty, and regiments often went into battle with only 300 or 400 men.

The men taken prisoner often were released on parole, a promise not to fight again in the war unless exchanged for a prisoner of the other side. Paroling of prisoners avoided the cost of feeding and caring for them. An exchange of prisoners often was arranged if the enemy held officers and men of equal number and of the same rank.



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Fort Snelling's Round Tower as it looked in 1887.

The Civil War was a bitter war waged to compel a rebellious group of states to acknowledge a common flag, a common Union. Yet, to the men who fought it, the war perhaps wasn't far different from more recent conflicts. Many a veteran of World War II and Korea would feel a kinship with the "boys in blue."

The old accounts tell of the long marches, the incessant mud, the cold winter rains, the blistered, burning feet after marches in heavy boots through swamps on hot, humid days. In camp, there was the same boredom, the same rumors about the next action, the same complaining about pay and food, the familiar escapades such as the purloining of liquor and caching it in the ground. The surgeon and his helpers formed the medical corps of that day and the sutler was the forerunner of today's PX officer.

Yet the Civil War seems to have had something later wars have not--a deep attachment between officers and men. Time and again, historians of the various regiments pay tribute to these officers in the most glowing terms, speak of the devotion of the men for their officers, of their loyalty to them and their sorrow at losing them through death, promotion or transfer.

Perhaps this was because Civil War regiments, recruited by states, retained a sense of state pride and because the men of the various companies often came from the same towns and served under men whom they had known personally and had elected themselves.

Undoubtedly it is true that this same sense of loyalty and devotion persisted in the National Guard regiments of later wars, but in the rapid and large scale recruiting of the huge forces and the assigning of draftees wherever they were needed without regard for geographical origin, it was perhaps inevitable that an impersonal quality should pervade the ranks.

(Major Civil War engagements in which Minnesota regiments took part are listed at the back of the book.)

CHAPTER III

MINNESOTA AND THE INDIAN WARS

In August of 1862, during the darkest days of the War Between the States, the uprising of the Sioux Indians of Minnesota astounded the settlers of the frontier state. Every man, woman and child was affected, immediately and personally, even those living in Chippewa territory, north of the line running through St. Cloud, Alexandria and Fergus Falls.

They were unprepared for the attack, for its ferocity and destructiveness, for the frightful massacres of civilians, including the killing or capturing of helpless women and children, as well as men.

Few pioneers had had any experience with Indian warfare. The Scandinavians and Germans had emigrated from Europe; the New Englanders had only heard stories of the battles their ancestors had fought with the Indians in the 18th century. The settlers in southern and western Minnesota had become accustomed to seeing the Indians in the villages and on the prairies, to trading with them and giving them food during the hard winters.

The terror and the panic following the outbreak of the Sioux War were beyond description. Yet, perhaps some of the settlers remembered that they had had a foretaste of what savage warfare could be like.

Minnesota was inhabited by two Indian tribes or nations: the Chippewa or Ojibway who were members of the Algonquin branch whose original home was thought to have been New England, and the Sioux, who probably came from the southeastern Mississippi valley. The Sioux or Dakota, as they called themselves, were warlike and aggressive. By the 17th century they had pushed up the Mississippi and conquered most of the river valley, extending their domain east to Michigan and west to the Rockies.

The Chippewa, who were the true woodland and forest Indians, were intruders on Sioux territory. During the 17th and 18th centuries, with weapons they had acquired from the white settlers of the East--firearms and the hatchets which came to be called tomahawks--the Chippewa drove the Sioux, still armed with bows and

arrows, out of the northern and eastern sections of the Minnesota area. The Sioux then made their homes on the prairies of what is now southern Minnesota and the Dakotas. They were primarily plains Indians but also had occupied the forested regions of northern Minnesota. For almost 200 years there was unceasing, savage warfare between the two tribes. Their last battle finally was fought in 1858 near Shakopee, although sporadic warfare continued until the Sioux were removed from Minnesota in 1863.

At about the same time--the winter of 1857, to be exact--a series of attacks occurred which gave the settlers a foretaste of what was to come. The Spirit Lake Massacre and the attack on Springfield, Minn., were in no way directly connected with the later uprising of the Sioux but had some bearing upon it. The failure to catch the culprits and to administer speedy justice did nothing to deter the Sioux from taking to the warpath five years later.

The massacre of the families living around Spirit Lake and Lake Okoboji in Iowa and the attack on Springfield, just over the state line in Jackson county, Minnesota, was the work of a Sioux chief named Inkpaduta who hated the whites. He actually was an Indian outlaw. He had joined in a rebellion against his own chief and had been an accomplice to his murder if he indeed was not the actual murderer. He fled with the other conspirators and eventually became leader of the band. Inkpaduta was joined from time to time by other Indian renegades, and this band of Indian "gangsters" was feared by many Sioux as well as whites.

The winter of 1856-57 was extremely severe. Hunting and fishing were difficult. The Indians were close to starving and the settlers also had little food. In March, Inkpaduta and his band of 11 warriors, their women and children, appeared near the Lake Okoboji settlement in northern Iowa. There were six cabins, with 30 men, women and children. Five were on Lake Okoboji and the sixth on Spirit Lake, which gave its name to the massacre.

On March 8 and 9, the Indians unexpectedly turned on the settlers. Going to the lonely cabins to ask for food, they suddenly murdered the unsuspecting hosts, raped and murdered the women or took them prisoner and beat the children to death. Livestock were slaughtered and the cabins plundered, then burned. Four women were captured. Everyone else was killed.

The band with its captives then moved north toward Springfield, which stood on the present site of Jackson, Minn. Springfield, however, a settlement of some 30 persons, was forewarned and ready. One man, out hunting for strayed cattle, had escaped the Spirit Lake Massacre and when he returned and found the

bodies, he made for Springfield to sound the alarm.

Two men were sent off to Fort Ridgely to ask for army protection. Most of the other settlers, with their arms, gathered at the largest and strongest log house and waited--an agonizingly long wait of a week before the attack came. In the afternoon of March 26 the Indians crept into town and opened fire. Three men, one woman and three children were killed and two men and a woman were wounded. The defense, however, was so spirited that by nightfall the Indians abandoned the attack.

The terrified settlers decided to flee, leaving behind everything but the clothing they wore. Yoking up a team of oxen and placing the wounded and small children in the wagon, they marched all night through the dark, cold, snow-drifted prairies to a cabin site near where Estherville, Iowa, now stands--a distance of 15 miles. Eventually, joined by other refugees, they made their way to Fort Dodge, aided by soldiers who came out from the fort to meet them.

The Spirit Lake area was soon resettled, but Springfield remained deserted for several years. Two of the captive white women died at the hands of the Indians but the other two women were ransomed.

Inkpaduta and his band never were captured or punished for their crimes. Fort Ridgely, then garrisoned by a battalion of the Tenth United States Infantry, was alerted to the Springfield attack and Col. Alexander, the fort commandant, ordered Capt. Bernard E. Bee and Company D with 48 men to Springfield. Capt. Bee, a South Carolinian who afterwards served with distinction as a brigadier general in the Confederate army during the Civil War, was a fine soldier but he and his men had to dig their way through deep snow drifts and fight bitter cold. With them was Philander Prescott, the Indian interpreter, and a sleigh carrying provisions. Prescott turned back but Capt. Bee and his men struggled on through the snow.

They came upon a number of Inkpaduta's recently abandoned bivouacs and once, unknowingly, were in sight of the Indian's camp. But they were an infantry company sent to chase a band of mounted Indians. The men were exhausted by the snow and cold and Capt. Bee also finally had to turn back, leaving a detachment of 23 men at Springfield to protect settlers in the surrounding area.

Inkpaduta fled into the Dakota territory, managed to elude all attempts to take him and lived to be very old. According to one story, he witnessed the beginning of Custer's Last Stand on the Little Big Horn and fled into Canada with Sitting Bull. More than

one authority believes that if Inkpaduta had been thoroughly punished, the Sioux War of 1862 never would have taken place.

Inkpaduta's raids terrorized the entire frontier. Volunteer militia companies were formed and bands of peaceful Indians sometimes were attacked. Troops more than once were called out from Fort Snelling and Fort Ridgely as much to protect the frightened Indians as to reassure the jittery settlers.

The "Cornstalk War" of August, 1857, coming close on the heels of Inkpaduta's raids, gives evidence of the tension all along the frontier. Settlers in Chisago county, near the present village of Sunrise, became alarmed by a band of Chippewa warriors who appeared to be hanging about. The settlers sent word to Gov. Medary who ordered out the St. Paul Light Cavalry, a dashing group of young men who cut quite a swath in their uniforms of red coats and white trousers. Commanded by Capt. James Starkey and armed with swords and pistols, the cavalry marched for Chisago county.

At Sunrise, the troops spotted six Chippewa hunters. Seeing the uniformed men, the Indians leaped over a fence and ran through a cornfield. Shots were exchanged. One of the soldiers, Frank Donnelly, was mortally wounded, an Indian was killed and another wounded. Thus ended the "war," an incident which might have been amusing if it had not been for the casualties involved.

Inkpaduta's raids and their consequences were but a prelude to the Sioux Outbreak five years later, one of the most serious Indian Wars ever fought in North America.

While estimates of casualties vary because of incomplete records, there is no doubt that more lives were lost in Minnesota during the Sioux War than were lost by Minnesota troops in battle during the Civil War, including such bloody affairs as the First Minnesota's charge at Gettysburg. One report estimates that the Sioux killed 644 civilians and 93 soldiers, a total of 737.

The War Between the States produced momentous results. It freed the slaves and preserved the Union. And the Sioux War, so far as immediate results were concerned, merely left Minnesota with several thousand fewer Indians and the Dakota Territory with several thousand more Indians. Yet, the war marked the beginning of the Indian's last great stand against the white man and his encroaching civilization. The shock of the war to the people of Minnesota probably was greater than the impact of the far greater conflict many miles distant in the South.

Settlers who survived the massacres as well as the many others who were not in the immediate area of the Indian raids

fled their homes, leaving behind all their property. They arrived destitute in the Minnesota River settlements, in Minneapolis and St. Paul and in such Mississippi River communities as Red Wing, Wabasha and Winona. Many fled into Iowa and Wisconsin and never returned to Minnesota. It has been estimated that 23 Minnesota counties lost all of their civilized inhabitants.

The Sioux War originated on Minnesota soil but the settlers on Minnesota's southern and western prairies who suffered most from the uprising were in no way responsible for what happened. Neither was there any truth to rumors that the Sioux had been stirred up by Confederate agents. There was practically no connection between the Sioux War and the Civil War, aside from the fact that the Sioux probably thought the United States was so engrossed in the great conflict that it would be unable to defend its frontiers.

Fundamental cause of the Sioux War lay in the irreconcilable--and tragic--conflict between a culture based primarily on hunting and one based on agriculture and trade. Both of these could not exist in the same place. Neither could a hunting culture survive if an agricultural and commercial civilization existed within several hundred miles.

Originally, the Indian had killed wild animals only to eat. When the white men set up trading posts, the Indians learned they also could kill animals and sell their skins. So they became market hunters. It is estimated that by the time of the founding of Fort Snelling, most of the game in Minnesota had disappeared. At least, not enough of it remained so that the Indians could live just by hunting.

After 1820, the Minnesota Indians lived largely on credit extended by traders who knew the Indians eventually would sell their lands and that the government would pay the traders' financial claims.

In 1851 the Sioux did just that. They sold the Suland of southern and western Minnesota to the United States and the land was opened to settlement. The Sioux reservation along the upper Minnesota River contained much rich land, ample for the four tribes of Minnesota Sioux if they went to work as farmers. There was little game, however. Indeed, in all of Minnesota, there was not enough game to support the Sioux by hunting. So they continued to live on credit but with difficulty, now, because their credit was limited by the size of the government's periodic payments to the tribes.

The Sioux were facing a major decision; whether or not to

abandon their ancient way of life, learn to farm and live like the white settlers. They were divided on this issue. A minority, composed of the Christian Indians and many of the half-breeds, wished to try the new way of life.

The government dimly understood that the Sioux must be taught to farm. Funds from the sale of the Suland were set aside for their education, to buy seed, grain, agricultural implements, to hire a teacher and farm instructor. However, the federal government of the 1850s was not efficient enough to perform these services competently and furthermore, most of the Sioux had no interest either in education or in farming.

A great majority were passionately devoted to the old ways and to their immemorial customs. They ridiculed the farmer Indians, attacked them, broke up their work. As a result, cold and hunger stalked the villages and the Sioux became sulky and ugly.

This was the background of the war of 1862. The actual fighting probably was triggered by a combination of unscrupulous traders, incompetent Indian agents, poorly garrisoned frontier forts and a national government preoccupied with the problems of the Civil War.

Some of the frontier traders were honest but others had been cheating the Indians for years. They may not have been greatly different from other business men of the period. Most of the Indian agents, the federal government's representatives among the Indians, were political appointees with no qualifications for dealing with them. However, Maj. Lawrence Taliaferro, whose long service as Indian agent in Minnesota began in 1819-20, was honest and sincere and Joseph R. Brown, agent to the Sioux during President Buchanan's administration, probably understood the Indian better than any other person in the state. He labored earnestly to induce the Sioux to settle down as farmers but with limited success. His successor, Maj. Galbraith, was a political appointee rewarded for services in connection with the Republican victory of 1860. He had good intentions but few qualifications for dealing with the Indians. He was surprised when the Sioux went to war. But, on the other hand, so were the missionaries who had lived among them for years.

The United States, in the case of Inkipaduta, had failed to demonstrate its power and the average Sioux had seen nothing he was afraid of, including Fort Ridgely which had an infantry garrison where cavalry was needed. After the regular army soldiers departed in 1861, the frontier forts were garrisoned with raw recruits from various Minnesota volunteer regiments.

In August, 1862, the Sioux were hungry. The traders would grant them no further credit. The allotment of gold coin, long overdue, had not arrived because a wartime congress had not made the necessary appropriations in time. The gold arrived a few hours before the war began but not in time to be distributed.

That summer, seven companies of the Fifth Minnesota Infantry Regiment had been sent South but Companies B, C, and D stayed in Minnesota to garrison the three frontier forts. Company B was at Fort Ridgely under Capt. John S. Marsh, Company C at Fort Ripley under Capt. Francis Hall and Company D at Fort Abercrombie under Capt. John Vander Horek. The men had had considerable training for service against the Confederates but had little understanding of the Indians and the cruelty and treachery of Indian warfare.

In early August, some 5,000 Sioux, including women and children, gathered at the Upper Agency, one of three set up by the government to administer to the Indians. The other two were the Lower Agency or the Redwood Agency, located on the Minnesota River across from the present site of Morton and perhaps 18 miles northwest of Fort Ridgely, and the Big Stone Agency on Big Stone Lake.

These agencies were small villages containing storehouses, a school, usually a church or mission, houses for the Indian agent and his employees, a blacksmith shop, carpenter shops and a small settlement made up of traders and merchants who also dealt with the Indians.

The Upper Agency or Yellow Medicine Agency also was on the Minnesota, near the present site of Granite Falls. Because of the threat of trouble, a detachment of 50 soldiers under Lt. Timothy J. Sheehan had been sent there from Fort Ripley to help keep order while the money and provisions were handed out.

The Sioux were hostile, sullen, frequently menacing. They threatened to seize the goods before the agent was ready to distribute them. Yet, none of the whites suspected an uprising. Firm action on the part of Lt. Sheehan prevented serious trouble and the provisions and goods were given out, although the money had not arrived.

On the morning of August 17 Lt. Sheehan and his men left Fort Ridgely for Fort Ripley. That same day in Acton township, Meeker county, a band of Indian hunters murdered five whites. This set off the first massacre and, with it, the Sioux War on the next day.

At the time, opinions differed as to whether the uprising was spontaneous, like a riot, or was a well-planned attack. There



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Upper Sioux Agency in Yellow Medicine County. The agency was located on the Minnesota River near the present town of Granite Falls.

was validity to both opinions. For some time a soldiers' lodge, an organization of Indian braves similar to the military police of a modern army, had been active. There had been much war talk among the tribesmen. Chief Shakopee (or Little Six) was ready for war but did not wish to begin it without the help of Chief Little Crow who was ambitious to establish himself as chief military commander and leader of the Sioux. That an attack actually had been planned by the chiefs for August 18 is doubtful but the attack on Fort Ridgely and the second attack on New Ulm showed there had been careful advance planning.

Early in the morning of the 18th, the Sioux rode into the Lower Agency with Little Crow at their head. The unsuspecting whites were just rising and were surprised--but not alarmed--to see a large force of armed Indians in their midst. The attack began at four stores with the killing of most of the traders and the looting and burning of the stores. Agency employees were the next victims. But the Indians' desire to rob the stores, an important reason for the outbreak, brought a lull in the killing. This interval permitted many settlers and their families to escape.

The terrified fugitives fled toward the Minnesota River which separated them from the road to Fort Ridgely. At the river crossing, known as the Redwood Ferry, the ferryman courageously made trip after trip to get them across before he himself was killed. The Indians pursued and killed some of the fleeing whites. Among the dead was Philander Prescott, the aged interpreter whose wife was a Sioux and who had worked with the Indians for 45 years. He was shot down although the Sioux knew he was their friend.

As the attack on the Lower Agency was carried out, independent raiding parties fell upon other homes and settlements in the Minnesota valley, murdering farmers who had been their friends, killing the women or taking them captives and killing the children, too. It was this widespread murdering of terrified, helpless children, often before their parents' eyes, that more than anything else aroused the bitterness of settlers and resulted in severe punishment of the Sioux.

By 10 o'clock on the morning of August 18, the first of the fugitives arrived at Fort Ridgely. Capt. Marsh at once sent a mounted messenger after Lt. Sheehan who was marching toward Fort Ripley to order him back to Fort Ridgely.

"Return immediately the Indians are raising hell at the agency."

Comments Louis H. Roddis in his "Indian Wars of Minnesota:"

"As both a true estimate of the situation and an unquestionably definite operation order are contained in 10 simple words it might be cited as a model field order."

Then, with 46 men and an interpreter, Peter Quinn, Marsh started for the Redwood Ferry 14 miles away. Each man had 40 rounds of ammunition and a day's ration. A train of wagons hauled the little company, plus rations, blankets and extra ammunition.

Capt. Marsh drew up his men near the ferry landing on the north side of the river, on bottomland which was covered with dense thickets. Here he was ambushed by the Indians who had stolen through the thickets and around the ferry house and barn until the soldiers were almost completely surrounded and cut off from retreat. They had to fight their way out. Capt. Marsh drowned as he tried to cross the river and 24 of his men were killed in the skirmish which has been called the Battle of Redwood Ferry. It was the first battle of the war.

The survivors reached Fort Ridgely about 10 that night. Now

the garrison realized the extent and intensity of the outbreak, since the soldiers had seen evidence of the killing, looting and burning all the way to the ferry. Lt. Thomas P. Gere, acting commandant at the fort, at once sent a mounted messenger to Fort Snelling asking for immediate reinforcements. He had only a handful of men to protect the little post which already was filled with refugees. If the Sioux had attacked that day, the fort would have fallen.

The next morning, August 19, Lt. Sheehan arrived after an all night march and took command. The same day, Agent Galbraith arrived from St. Peter with 46 men of the Renville Rangers under the command of Capt. James Gorman. They prepared to stand off an Indian attack which they knew would come.

By August 20, the entire frontier was aflame. The attacks had spread to the Indian Agency on Big Stone Lake where five agency men as well as some farmers were killed. Attacks and murders had occurred in every one of the southwestern Minnesota counties. The same day the Lower Agency was attacked, the Sioux of the Upper Agency gathered to plot an attack there. The whites, however, had been warned by friendly Indians. Under the guidance of John Other Day, a Christian Indian of great ability, they fortified themselves in the agency's brick warehouse. That night the Indians plundered the traders' stores. Other Day and several other friendly Indians hitched up three wagons and two buggies and set out with 62 white adults and children. They made their way to safety at Hutchinson. John Other Day's service to the white settlers at a time of hatred and bitterness between races stands as an example of the many fine and true friendships which did endure between Indian and white man.

At Fort Ridgely, Lt. Sheehan plunged into preparations for defending the post. Women and children were crowded into the stone barracks. Sacks of grain, flour barrels, cordwood were used to form barricades filling in open spaces between buildings. Muskets were given out to able refugees. There was plenty of ammunition.

The fort, fortunately, possessed several artillery pieces, a six-pound field piece, several 24-pounders and two 12-pound mountain howitzers and these were placed in position. The total defending force numbered 192 men.

The first attack came August 20. A small force of Sioux first staged a demonstration near the southwest corner of the fort. Then Little Crow led his main force in an assault from the northeast. The spirited defense, however, and the surprise use of artillery fire drove off the Sioux. The attack ended at nightfall.



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Battle of Fort Ridgely. This drawing shows how Ridgely was fortified. Lt. Sheehan, who organized the defense, ordered the roofs of the buildings soaked with water so that the Indians' burning arrows would not take effect.

Two days later, Little Crow made a larger and more determined effort to take the fort. Chiefs Mankato and Shakopee were among those who joined him in this assault. Again they were driven back. The fort, however, had been badly damaged and Lt. Sheehan sent a desperate message to Gov. Ramsey appealing for reinforcements.

As news of the Indian war spread, the frontier sprang to arms. Numerous local units of armed men organized to defend their area and help their neighbors. There were 54 companies with an enrollment of 3,238 officers and men. Terms of service varied but the average was a month.

All villages of any size lying anywhere near the frontier proceeded at once to build stockades with block houses to guard the corners. These forts were large enough to shelter village inhabitants and supplies against a siege. Such stockades were built at St. Cloud, St. Joseph, Maine Prairie, Sauk Centre, Glencoe, to name but a few.

Fort Ridgely had been defended successfully by a part of the Fifth Infantry, although the fort's location gave the Sioux ex-

cellent cover. Villages had to depend on their own citizens and volunteer companies.

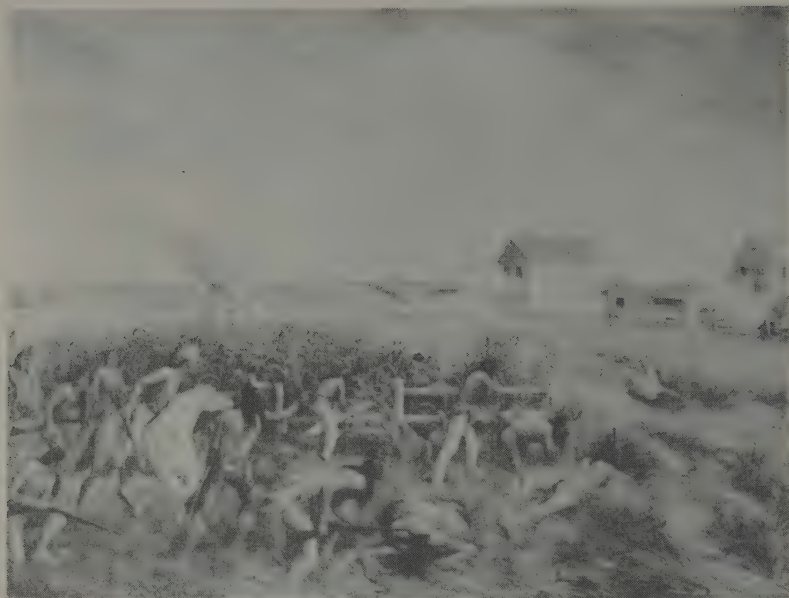
As soon as the news of the Sioux attacks reached St. Peter late in the afternoon of August 18, people began to organize for defense under the leadership of William B. Dodd and Charles E. Flandrau, the former Indian agent who now was an associate justice of the Minnesota supreme court. Flandrau was the foremost citizen of the Minnesota valley. He was named captain and later colonel of the newly-formed companies. Those which operated under his command included the Winnebago City Guards under Capt. H. W. Holley; Fillmore County Mounted Infantry, Capt. C. L. Post; Goodhue County Rangers, Capt. D. L. Davis; Winona Rangers, Capt. C. F. Buck. Flandrau's own company was the St. Peter Frontier Guards which enrolled 204 men.

On Tuesday, August 19, New Ulm was attacked for the first time. The Indians fired down into the town from surrounding bluffs but did not attempt to enter the town. Expecting an attack, the settlers had thrown up barricades in the center of town and some of the men had banded together, armed with double-barreled shot-guns and rifles. The Sioux were turned back by these men who fought under the leadership of Sheriff Roos and Capt. Nix.

As the Indians were withdrawing, 16 mounted men under the command of Sheriff L. M. Boardman of Nicollet county arrived, followed soon by Capt. Flandrau's St. Peter Frontier Guards and some citizens of LeSueur who had picked up guns and started for the war.

On August 23, the Sioux made a determined attempt to take New Ulm, one of the most prosperous of the frontier towns and offering rich rewards in both plunder and scalps. This attack, called the Battle of New Ulm, was a turning point of the war even though it came only five days after the uprising. Had New Ulm and Fort Ridgely fallen, the entire southern section of Minnesota would have been overrun.

Other armed companies had arrived in New Ulm. These included The Mankato Volunteers under Capt. William Bierbauer; LeSueur Tigers No. 1, Capt. William Dellaughter; LeSueur Tigers No. 2, Capt. E. C. Saunders; Capt. John Behm's Company of Militia; Capt. Joseph Anderson's Company; Capt. Louis Buggert's Company of Brown County Militia; Nicollet County Guards, Capt. A. M. Bean; St. Peter Guards, Capt. William Huey; Lafayette Company, Capt. Sidel Depolder; The Frontier Avengers, Capt. E. St. Julien Cox, and Capt. Ignatz Reinartz' Company of Brown County Militia.



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society
Painting in Capitol Rotunda, St. Paul

Battle of New Ulm, painted by Anton Gag.

These organizations enrolled nearly 1,000 men. However, Capt. Huey was absent, having been sent with 75 men to scout out the position of the Sioux, and Capt. Cox did not arrive until later in the day. Many men in the other companies were absent so that Flandrau actually had only about 250 men to meet an attack by a Sioux force which numbered perhaps 600 warriors.

Flandrau and his men met the Sioux on the open prairie just outside of town. In his official report to Ramsey, he describes how the battle began about 10 a.m.

“Their advance upon the sloping prairie in the bright sunlight was a very fine spectacle, and to such inexperienced soldiers as we all were, intensely exciting. When within about one mile and a half of us the mass began to expand like a fan, and increase in the velocity of its approach, and continued this movement until within a double rifle-shot, when it had covered our entire front. Then the savages uttered a terrific yell and came down upon us like the wind.”

This “unsettled the men a little,” to use Flandrau’s phrase, and they fell back and made for the town. Here, however, they rallied and checked the Indians’ advance.



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

The Indians in Minnesota. Location of many of the tribes, agencies and villages are shown on this map.

"White men fight under a great disadvantage the first time they engage Indians," Flandrau observed. "There is something so fiendish in their yells and terrifying in their appearance when in battle that it takes a great deal of time to overcome the unpleasant sensation it inspires. Then there is a snake-like stealth in all their movements that excites distrust and uncertainty which unsteadies the nerves at first."

The fighting lasted all day. At dark, the Indians withdrew, leaving the defenders with 26 dead, including Capt. Dodd, and many wounded. Almost 200 buildings had been burned, some at Flandrau's orders to prevent the Indians from using them as cover and others by the Indians who then advanced behind the smoke.

Because of the widespread destruction of property, Flandrau decided to evacuate the population to Mankato. The next morning, a train of 153 wagons moved out, carrying women, children and wounded. The men were on foot. There were some 2,000 refugees in all. They were guarded by Flandrau's armed volunteers and reached Mankato safely. After this evacuation, few settlers remained in the entire area west of a line from Mankato to St. Peter to Hutchinson.

As soon as news that the Sioux were on the warpath reached Gov. Ramsey, he gave Henry H. Sibley the rank of colonel and asked him to raise an army to push back the Sioux and relieve the frontier settlements from fear of Indian raids. Within a day, Col. Sibley was on his way to St. Peter with four companies of the Sixth Minnesota Infantry, to be followed shortly by the remainder of the regiment under Col. William Crooks. The men, however, had had practically no training.

One of Ramsey's great anxieties was meeting requests for regiments to serve in the Civil War while still assembling troops to protect the frontier against the Sioux. Finally, he decided to ask for an extension of the draft and on April 26 at 10 p.m. he sent this message:

"President Lincoln:

"With the concurrence of Commissioner Dole, I have telegraphed the Secretary of War for an extension of one month of drafting, etc. The Indian outbreak has come upon us suddenly. Half the population of the state are fugitives. It is absolutely impossible that we should proceed. The Secretary of War denies our request. I appeal to you, and ask for an immediate answer. No one not there can conceive the panic in the state.

Alex. Ramsey, Governor of Minnesota."

Lincoln replied at once and characteristically:

“Executive Mansion

August 26, 1862--10:30 a.m.

“Governor Ramsey:

“St. Paul, Minn.:

“Yours received. Attend to the Indians. If the draft cannot proceed of course it will not proceed. Necessity knows no law. The Government cannot extend the time.

A. Lincoln.”

In the meantime, a number of armed militia and volunteer groups had assembled at St. Peter. These included Capt. Joseph Anderson's Mounted Company which enrolled 69 men; Capt. David L. Lloyd's Company of 93 men; Capt. Calvin Potter's Mounted Company of 44 men; Capt. Mark Hendrick's Battery of Light Artillery, and the Lake City Mounted Company of 27 men under Capt. J. R. Sterrett. In all, Sibley had about 1,400 men. Those which were mounted were placed under the command of Col. Samuel McPhail who had served in the Mexican War.

By August 27 McPhail's men were at Fort Ridgely and the next day Sibley arrived with the infantry, bringing the relief the anxious men at the fort had sought.

On August 31, Maj. Joseph R. Brown, the former Indian agent, left Fort Ridgely with a detail of 20 men to bury the bodies of settlers and soldiers scattered along the roads and around the Lower Agency. He had an escort of about 150 soldiers under Capt. Hiram P. Grant of the Sixth Infantry. About a third of them were mounted. In addition, there were a number of teamsters with wagons carrying supplies.

The second night out, the party camped on the prairie on Birch Coolie Creek, about three miles from the Minnesota River and the Lower Agency. The camp site was an unwise selection. Nearby were woods which gave the Indians excellent cover and a slight rise in the prairie commanded the site.

The attack came at dawn. During the early morning hours, the Indians had surrounded the camp. Suddenly they opened fire on the sleeping men. Noise of the battle was heard by pickets back at Fort Ridgely who had been lying on the prairie with their ears to the ground to detect the tread of approaching Indians. Sibley immediately sent off a relief party under McPhail who arrived near Birch Coolie about noon. He had with him three companies

of infantry, two cannon and 50 cavalrymen. A few miles from the camp McPhail was stopped by a large force of Sioux dressed as civilians. They fired upon him and were so numerous that he halted and sent for reinforcements. With six companies of the Sixth Minnesota Infantry and two of the Seventh Regiment, Sibley marched to the relief of both detachments.

He drove away the Indians but found the worst possible conditions in the Birch Coolie camp. After the day-long battle, nearly half of the entire detachment were dead or wounded; 23 soldiers had been killed and 60 wounded. Nearly all of the 100 horses had been killed or wounded.

The Battle of Birch Coolie marked the end of Little Crow's offensive. Never again did he dare attack the lower valley and from then on he was on the defensive.

On the same day as the fight at Birch Coolie, Little Crow had started off at the head of a second expedition to plunder and massacre in the region of Hutchinson, Forest City and Acton on the edge of the Big Woods.

This raid brought on the Battle of Acton which involved Capt. Richard Strout and Company B of the Ninth Minnesota Infantry. Strout's force had been ordered to Forest City by Brig. Gen. John H. Stevens of the state militia whose headquarters were at Glen-coe. The night of September 2 Strout camped at Acton Post Office, not knowing that Little Crow and his party were also camped in the same area. The next morning the two forces met and joined battle. The Indians surrounded Strout and his men and forced them to retreat to Hutchinson. With Strout during the skirmish were the Sibley Guards and a group of 45 citizens. One man was killed and 15 wounded.

After this skirmish, many more isolated farmers left the country along the edge of the Big Woods but the people in the villages, for the most part, remained, relying on their forts and on the small detachments of troops that soon began to operate along the border. Hutchinson and Forest City both were attacked, looted and burned, the townspeople taking shelter meanwhile in the stockades.

Fort Abercrombie, on the Red River 15 miles north of Breckenridge was attacked August 30. Its garrison consisted of Company D of the Fifth Minnesota Infantry under Capt. John Vander Horck. He had the help of two groups of volunteers, the Northern Mounted Rangers commanded by Capt. Ambrose Freeman and a company of citizens under Capt. T. D. Smith. Four of these men were killed and two wounded. Company D lost three men killed.



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Fort Abercrombie in 1860.

Fort Abercrombie was not as well developed as the other frontier posts and scarcely deserved to be called a fort. But Capt. Vander Horck had several days' warning of the impending attack and set the men to building defenses. There was no stockade and only three buildings--barracks, storehouse and commandant's quarters. The post, however, had three 12-pound howitzers. The fort was attacked several times but never was seriously threatened.

At the same time as the Sioux outbreak in southern Minnesota, there was widespread fear that the Chippewa of northern Minnesota also would take to the warpath. One Chippewa Chief, Hole-in-the-Day, showed marked hostility. His followers sieged government stores at Leech Lake, killed cattle, stole horses.

Company C of the Fifth Infantry, except for the detachment under Lt. Sheehan, was on garrison duty at Fort Ripley and its commander, Capt. Francis Hall, prepared for trouble. There was some pillaging by the Indians at Gull Lake and a few shots exchanged with soldiers. Three more infantry companies were sent to reinforce the fort. The Ramsey County Picket Guard also marched north and volunteer companies were organized in Stillwater, Marine and Taylor's Falls. The Indian Agent, Maj. Lucian C. Walker, left the agency, known as the Gull Lake Reservation

which was some 10 miles north of Fort Ripley, and fled with other refugees to the fort and settlements farther south.

There is some evidence Hole-in-the-Day and Little Crow were in touch with each other. However, other Chippewa chiefs were opposed to Hole-in-the-Day and the trouble was confined to the Mississippi and Pillager bands. William P. Dole, United States commissioner of Indian affairs had come to Minnesota and coun-ciled with the Chippewa bands at the fort. Hole-in-the-Day was insolent but when Dole cut off all supplies for the bands, the Indians returned the property they had stolen and order was restored. Though coming at the same time as the Sioux outbreak, there was no real connection with it.

After the Battle of Birch Coolie, Col. Sibley waited at Fort Ridgely for supplies, ammunition and reinforcements. He now had under his command the Sixth and Seventh Minnesota Infantry Regiments and 270 men of the Third Minnesota under Maj. A. E. Welch of the Fourth Minnesota. It will be remembered that the Third Minnesota had been captured at Murfreesboro, Tenn., and its men eventually released on parole from southern prisons. Now they had been sent home to fight in the Sioux War. These were the only troops with military experience. Company A of the Fifth Minnesota remained as garrison for the fort.

Sibley also had several militia groups with him but no cavalry, one of the major drawbacks in the conduct of this frontier war. A hundred horses had been lost at Birch Coolie and most of the mounted men had gone home, much to Sibley's disgust.

The colonel now began correspondence with Little Crow in the hope of gaining the release of the captives and also of inducing the Indians to give up the fight. To contact Little Crow, he placed a letter in a forked stick and thrust it into the prairie near the fort.

Wrote the colonel:

"If Little Crow has any proposition to make to me, let him send a half-breed to me and he shall be protected in and out of camp.

H. H. Sibley
Col. Com'g. Mil. Exp'n."

Several days later Little Crow replied:

Yellow Medicine, Sept. 7th, 1862

"Dear Sir:

For what reason we have commenced this war I will tell you, it is on account of Maj. Gilbrait we made a treaty with the Government a big for what little we do get and then cant get it till our children was dieing with hunger--it is with the traders that commence mr a. J. myrick told the Indians that they would eat grass. Then mr Forbes told the lower Sioux that were not men then Robert he was working with his friends how to defraud us of our money, if the young braves have push the white men I have done this myself. So I want you to let the Governor Ramsey know this. I have great many prisner women and children it aint all our fault the winebagoes was in the engagement, two of them was killed I want you to give me answer by the barer all at present.

Yours truly,
Friend Little Crow, His X Mark,

(Addressed,) Gov. H. H. Sibley, Esqr., Fort Ridgely."

In two more letters Sibley continued to seek the release of the captives. But he also knew there was dissension among the Sioux chiefs. Evidence that Wabasha and Taopi, two of Sibley's Indian friends, desired protection is contained in a secret message from them, brought by the same man to whom Little Crow also had entrusted a message. The two chiefs protested that they had been threatened with death if they attempted to help the whites. They stated further that Little Crow always had been opposed to everything "in the form of civilization and Christianity" and that they "have always been in favor of and of late years have done everything of the kind that has been offered to us by the government and other good white people..."

Sibley hoped that a delay would allow these differences to crystallize. Furthermore, he hesitated to act quickly for fear the Sioux would kill their prisoners. His fears were well founded. The prisoners were seriously in danger of losing their lives and their massacre was urged a number of times in council meetings.

Sibley knew this. He was a highly able military leader and

soldier. He understood Indian warfare. He was particularly fitted for the task of negotiation and delay, for the psychological warfare which was so effective in dealing with the Indians. He knew many of the Indians personally and possessed an intimate knowledge of their character. Sibley also had the advice of Joseph R. Brown, the former Indian agent, and the Rev. S. R. Riggs, veteran missionary to the Sioux who became chaplain to Sibley's force.

By September 18, however, Sibley was ready to move. He had nine companies of the Sixth Infantry, five companies of the Seventh, one company of the Ninth, all that remained of the Third Regiment and almost 100 militia. This last group consisted of an artillery group under Capt. Hendrick and the Renville Rangers who had been on their way to enlist for the Civil War when the Sioux outbreak came and they were diverted to the frontier.

With his 1,619 men, Sibley marched slowly up the Minnesota Valley toward the Upper Agency where the hostile Sioux had concentrated.

The Indians, meanwhile, planned to ambush Sibley's army, expecting that the untrained soldiers would break ranks and make possible a great harvest of scalps.

The night of September 22, Sibley's troops camped on the shore of a small lake a few miles south of the Upper Agency. They were a little more than two miles east of the Yellow Medicine. A small creek ran from the lake and through a rather deep ravine into the Minnesota River.

The land around the camp site was rolling and covered with long prairie grass. Along the Yellow Medicine the land was heavily timbered.

Estimates place Little Crow's force at approximately 800 warriors. During the night the chief deployed his men for an attack the next morning. One group was placed at the edge of the woods at the Yellow Medicine, another in the ravine and the third hidden in the long grass.

Little Crow's plan was simple. As the troops began their march the next day, the Indians hidden in the woods would attack Sibley's advance guard. As soon as they were engaged, the Indians would rush from the ravine and their hiding places in the prairie grass and attack the rest of the force.

All did not go according to plan, however. There were many deserted Indian farms in the area with potatoes and corn ready for harvesting. Early in the morning of September 23 as the troops were getting ready to break camp, some of the men of the Third

Regiment took a wagon and went off foraging for food, apparently without orders.

The wagon had not gone more than half a mile from camp when the men were fired upon suddenly by the Indians concealed in the tall grass. The men leaped from the wagon and returned the fire. The rest of the Third Regiment and the Renville Rangers set off at a run to help them. The Battle of Wood Lake had begun.

"The camp was attacked by about 300 Indians who suddenly made their appearance and dashed down toward us whooping and yelling in their usual style and firing with great rapidity," said Col. Sibley in his report. The Renville Rangers and the Third Regiment rapidly drove the attacking Indians before them so that their battle line was soon some distance beyond the camp.

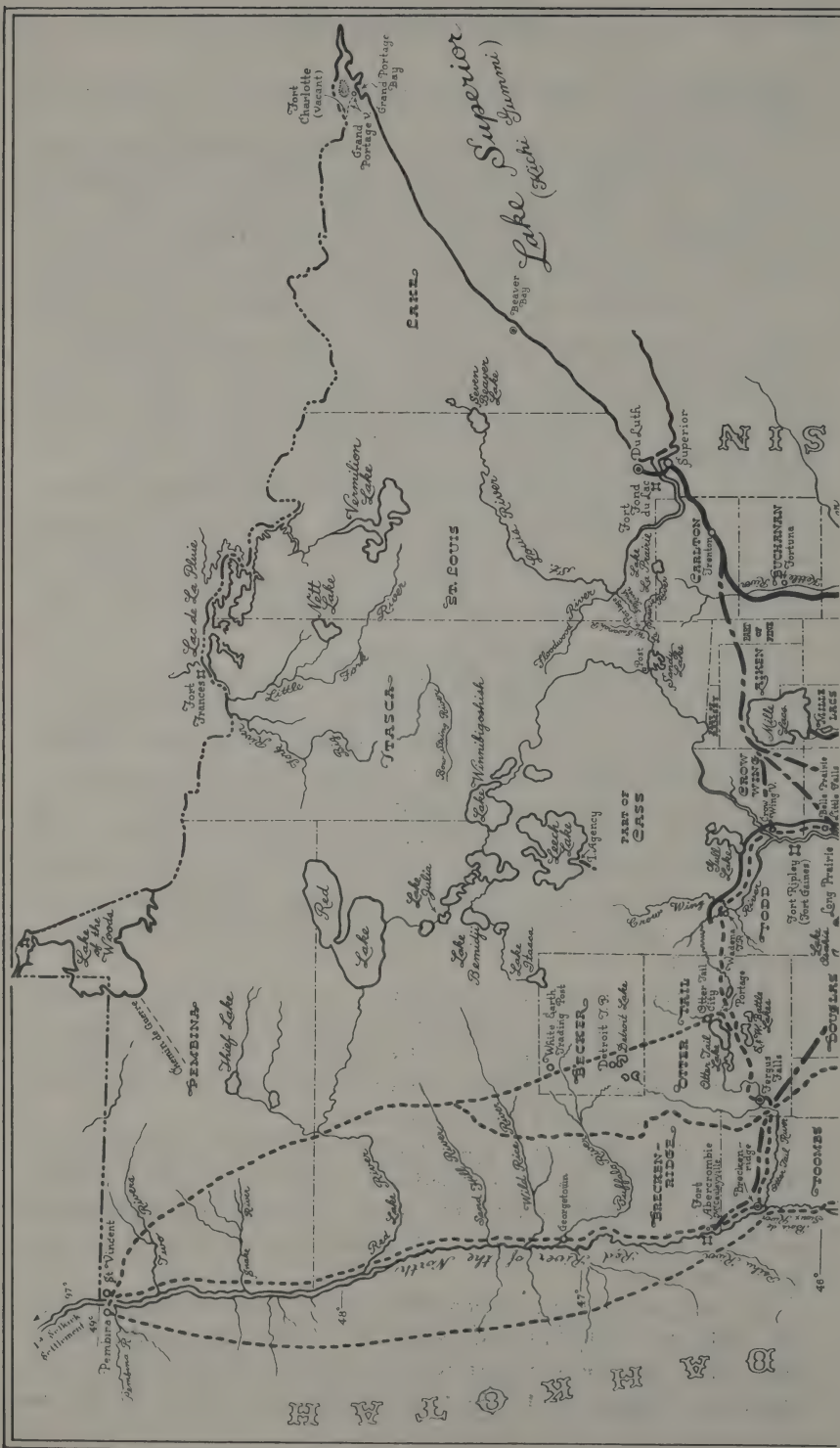
In the meantime, the Indians in the ravine began to move forward under orders from Little Crow. The Seventh Regiment now was ordered to rout them out of the ravine. A six-pound field piece first fired two charges of canister into the ravine. Then the Seventh Regiment with two companies of the Sixth charged the Indians, driving them out.

The fighting was sharp and fierce and lasted almost two hours. When the battle ended, the Sioux War was virtually over in Minnesota. This battle was far different from ambushing small, hastily-formed detachments of soldiers or untrained civilian volunteers, or from massacring unarmed farmers in isolated cabins. For the first time the Sioux had been met by an organized military force which outnumbered them. Their casualties were heavy, compared with the earlier battles--14 killed, including Chief Mankato, and perhaps 50 wounded. The Minnesota troops lost seven killed and 34 wounded.

The Indians were so completely routed that they retreated several miles that day and fled into the Dakota Territory the next day, leaving behind the white captives with Chief Wabasha and a large group of Indians. Some were friendly and others were warriors who had taken part in the war.

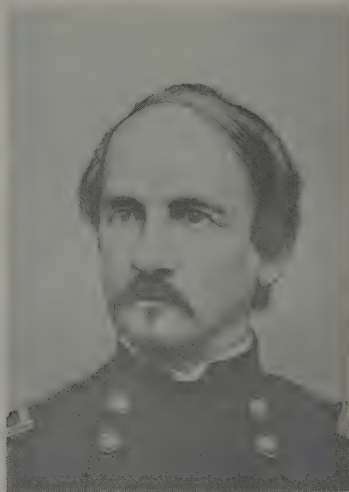
Three days later at a spot Sibley named Camp Release near Montevideo, the Sioux surrendered with their prisoners--107 whites and 162 half-breeds. The number of Sioux who surrendered has been placed at 2,000 but this probably includes those who drifted in later.

Little Crow wasn't among them. The famous chief fled into the Dakotas with his followers and spent the winter there. The next spring he appeared with 60 warriors at Fort Garry, near Winnipeg, Canada, and asked for ammunition and food. He was



Minnesota in 1858





Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Little Crow at Traverse des Sioux.

Gen. Henry Hastings Sibley

given the food but the British authorities declined to supply him with ammunition and he departed again southward--to the undoubted relief of the officers at Fort Garry.

In July of 1863, Sibley and his troops were campaigning in the Dakotas but Little Crow was back in Minnesota. With 16 men and a squaw, he had advanced to the edge of the Big Woods near Hutchinson, chiefly to steal horses.

The settlers had unmistakable evidence the Indians were about. A party of Indians known to have stolen some horses were tracked down by a detachment from the Eighth Minnesota. In the ensuing skirmish, an officer was shot. Near Howard Lake and Fairhaven a number of settlers were killed.

On July 3, two men from Hutchinson were out hunting deer six miles north of town. Toward dusk they saw two Indians picking berries in a little glade in the woods. They took aim at the older of the two Indians, fired twice and killed him. The other Indian disappeared into the woods.

The dead Indian was Little Crow. He was scalped by a party of men who had come out from Hutchinson and his body carried into the town. He appeared to be 50 or 60 years old. The younger Indian who had been with him was his son. This 16-year-old boy, Wowinapa, set out for Devil's Lake where he was found, half-starved, by some of Sibley's men.

The boy later was tried and convicted of taking part in the uprising and of attempted murder and horse theft. He was sentenced to be hanged but Lincoln did not wish to approve the sentence and he eventually was set free. Wowinapa proved to be an intelligent young man. He took the name of Thomas Wakeman, became a Christian and a deacon and pioneered in YMCA work among the Sioux. Of his two sons, one became a YMCA secretary for the Sioux. The other was a pastor of the Yellow Medicine church.

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For the first month of the uprising, the Sioux War had been a Minnesota war. The Third Infantry Regiment, the only veteran battle-trained regiment which had taken part, also was the only regiment which belonged to the armed forces of the United States. The Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and other infantry regiments had not yet been mustered into federal service and were entirely under the command of the governor and the adjutant general. Militia and volunteer groups also operated under the state government and Col. Sibley, too, exercised command as the result of orders from the governor.

Although the Battle of Wood Lake ended Little Crow's organized warfare in Minnesota, Minnesota troops continued to take part in expeditions against the Indians, chiefly in the Dakota Territory, as late as 1866.

In September of 1862, the United States recognized the Sioux War as a responsibility of the federal government. Secretary of War Stanton created the Department of the Northwest and placed Maj. Gen. John Pope in command. Col. Sibley was promoted to brigadier general in charge of the Military District of Minnesota. Later he became brevet major general.

The Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Infantry Regiments entered federal service and plans were made for enlistment of a cavalry regiment with members of Col. McPhail's Minnesota Mounted Rangers as a nucleus.

However, winter was coming, the Sioux were off in the Dakotas and the campaign of 1862 was over. Without well-trained troops and strong cavalry forces, there was nothing Sibley could do immediately. His army lacked transportation, except for farm wagons, and it was clear the hostile Sioux on the Dakota plains would have to be tracked down and defeated if border raids were to cease. A well-organized expeditionary force had to be assembled first.

During this period of waiting, Sibley was severely criticized

throughout the state by the people and in the press. On all sides, demands arose for the immediate defeat and extermination of the Indians. But Sibley in five weeks had assembled an army, relieved Fort Ridgely, drilled his untrained soldiers, marched up the Minnesota valley and defeated the Sioux at Wood Lake, secured the surrender of a large number of Indians and the release of 269 captives and brought the immediate pressure on the frontier to an end. Surely there was little basis for the charges of procrastination leveled against him.

Most of the Sioux who surrendered were women and children but among them were 400 men who had taken part in the war. The fury of the people on the frontier was almost beyond description and public opinion demanded the immediate trial and execution of all Indians who had fought in the uprising.

Before the end of September, Gen. Sibley appointed a military commission to try the captured Indians. Members were Col. William Crooks, Lt. Col. William R. Marshall, Capt. Hiram P. Grant, Capt. Hiram S. Bailey and First Lt. Rollin C. Olin. Lt. Col. Marshall was soon replaced by Maj. George Bradley. All were officers of the Third, Sixth and Seventh Infantry Regiments.

In all, 392 Sioux were tried; 307 were sentenced to be hanged and 16 sentenced to prison. Since the trial was by a military tribunal, sentences had to be approved not only by the generals but by President Lincoln.

Sibley approved all sentences but one. Lincoln gave the report his personal attention. He had talked with Bishop Henry B. Whipple concerning the situation in Minnesota and had learned of the many real grievances of the Sioux and of the treachery of some of the traders. Lincoln ignored reports that if all the Indians were not hanged, the people would take matters into their own hands.

This was not an idle threat, however. On a march through New Ulm, a number of the prisoners and their military guards were injured by the inhabitants, and at South Bend, Col. Miller, who was in charge of the prisoners, had to call out a cavalry company to hold back the mob of 150 men from Mankato who were intent on lynching the Indians.

Lincoln approved the death sentences of 39 Indians who actually had murdered citizens. He commuted to prison terms the sentences of all those who had merely taken part in battles. One man under sentence of death was reprieved but the other 38 were hanged December 26, 1862, at Mankato in the presence of a strong military guard drawn from several regiments. Unfortunately,

most of the worst characters among the Indians were far away in the Missouri Valley.

The other captive Indians had been escorted to winter camp near Fort Snelling. Again the soldiers commanded by Lt. Col. Marshall, had to protect them from the settlers. The Sioux found that their only friends were the missionaries. These devoted people taught and preached to the Indians through the winter of 1862-3, both to the 1,601 at Fort Snelling and the prisoners at Mankato. All but two of the Indians executed at Mankato had been baptized and nearly all the others, both at Fort Snelling and Mankato, became Christians, including the father of Dr. Charles A. Eastman, famed physician, lecturer, author and authority on Indian history. His father was one of those whose sentences were commuted.

In February, 1863, congress abrogated the Sioux treaties and confiscated their reservations and tribal funds. Lincoln decided to move both the Sioux and the Winnebagoes, who had taken no part in the war, to a new reservation on the Missouri River. The Indians from Fort Snelling were crowded into two steamboats and taken down the Mississippi and up the Missouri. At St. Joseph, Mo., all were packed into one boat under deplorable conditions.

They arrived at their new reservation too late for planting. By late fall they were near starvation so a train of 150 wagons, guarded by three companies of the Sixth Minnesota Infantry, set out from Mankato for the Missouri to bring them supplies. At first it had been almost impossible to find teamsters for the 150 yoke of oxen needed to pull the wagons. But by offering \$1.25 a day to the soldiers (at a time when a private's pay was \$13 a month), enough were found. Starting in November, the expedition, which was named the "Moscow Campaign" by the St. Paul Press, had to endure extreme hardships of heavy snow, bitter cold, frigid winds and blizzards.

Company B of the Fifth Minnesota Infantry, having helped escort the Sioux to Fort Snelling, joined the rest of the regiment in the South, followed soon by Companies C and D. That winter of 1862-3, the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Minnesota Infantry Regiments all were stationed on the frontier, guarding against depredations by the Sioux.

The Sixth had five companies at Fort Snelling, three at Glen-coe, one at Forest City and one at Kingston. Headquarters of the Seventh were at Mankato where it guarded the Sioux prisoners but the regiment also had garrisons at Fairmont, Madelia, the Winnebago Agency and on the Watonwan River.

The Eighth Regiment guarded the northern frontier against possible trouble from the Chippewa. With headquarters at Fort Ripley, it also had companies at Anoka, Princeton, Monticello and Sunrise. As trouble with the Chippewa became less probable, the Eighth moved its headquarters to St. Cloud, with detachments at Kingston, Manannah, Paynesville, Sauk Centre, Pomme de Terre, Alexandria, Georgetown and Fort Abercrombie.

The Ninth also was scattered along the frontier with detachments at Hanska, Cottonwood River, St. Peter, Henderson, Judson Ferry, Fairmont, Chanyaska Lake, Lake Crystal, New Ulm, Long Lake, Pipe Lake, Forest Lake, Lake Addie, Brown's Grove, White's farm, Kennedy's farm and South Bend.

The Tenth Infantry had its headquarters at LeSueur and garrisons at Winnebago Agency, Norwegian Lake, Fort Ridgely, Henderson, Swan Lake and Vernon Center. The LeSueur Tigers entered this regiment. The First Battalion of Minnesota Mounted Rangers patrolled the frontier.

The companies often built stockades and log encampments. Some of the smaller detachments were quartered in buildings left vacant by settlers who had been killed or who had fled. On the whole, the frontier was quiet except for a few raids.

Meanwhile, the campaign of 1863 in the Dakota Territory was being planned. Among military units available was the Minnesota Mounted Rangers or First Regiment of Mounted Rangers, with 12 companies, which had been organized in the fall of 1862 with Samuel McPhail, colonel; William Pfaender, who was back from the South, lieutenant colonel; John H. Parker, Salmon E. Buell and Orrin T. Hayes, majors. In February of 1863 the Third Battery of Light Artillery was organized with John Jones, a regular army sergeant who had served the cannon at the defense of Fort Ridgely, as captain.

As the Minnesota troops moved into position for the summer campaign, five companies of Wisconsin troops and 500 Iowa cavalrymen who had been borrowed during the winter were released.

Maj. Gen. Pope planned a campaign to destroy the hostile Sioux tribes in the Dakotas and end all danger to the settlements. Gen. Sully, from his headquarters at Sioux City, was to move up the Missouri River, keeping his forces supplied by steamboat. Gen. Sibley was to move west and northwest, using Fort Ridgely as a base. The two armies were to catch the Sioux between them.

Gen. Sibley assembled a force of about 3,300 men at Camp Pope near the mouth of the Redwood River. Included were nine

companies of the First Regiment Mounted Rangers (the other three companies stayed behind as border patrol); most of the Renville Rangers; some of the LeSueur Tigers; the Sixth Infantry; nine companies of the Seventh; eight companies of the Tenth; 100 pioneers from the Ninth; the Third Battery of Light Artillery and about 70 Indian and half-breed scouts.

The expedition moved slowly, encumbered by a long wagon train necessary because all food, equipment and ammunition had to be carried with them, besides hundreds of cattle for feeding the army. For the soldiers, the days no doubt were dull with little to see except perhaps an occasional deer, elk or buffalo. Sometimes they enjoyed watching their dogs chase jackrabbits or antelope. At night the camp slept behind sod breastworks and with artillery placed at strategic points. The pickets often fired at what they thought were skulking Indians, usually imaginary. Under the circumstances, it is surprising that any Indians were found.

The expedition had left Camp Pope June 16. By July 18, the army was ready to build Camp Atkinson 40 miles south of Devil's Lake. Leaving his heavy equipment and supplies here, Sibley headed southwest toward the reported location of a large encampment of Sioux. Moving rapidly, he caught up with a hunting party including almost 1,000 warriors.

In a series of battles and skirmishes at Big Mound, Dead Buffalo Lake and Stone Lake, the Sioux fought and retreated until they finally escaped across the Missouri.

No report had been received from Gen. Sully and his Iowa and Nebraska troops. They had been delayed by low water on the Missouri River which made it impossible for the steamboats to move. Sibley ordered the expedition to begin its return march. It was back on the Minnesota frontier by the middle of September. The troops had suffered greatly from a dry, hot summer. Water was both bad and scarce. During the campaign, four men had been killed by Indians, one by lightening and a few wounded. Sibley reported at least 46 Indians dead.

As soon as the expedition started for home, the Sioux promptly recrossed the Missouri River and resumed hunting in the James River Valley. Here they were caught by the Sully expedition and, at the Battle of White Stone Hill, suffered a serious defeat.

In late summer, 1863, Edwin A. C. Hatch of St. Paul was authorized to organize an independent military unit, part cavalry and part infantry, to serve in the Indian war. His permission came through the political influence of ex-Sen. Rice and Sen.

Wilkinson. Hatch was to hold the rank of major and appoint his own officers. Many people regarded this order as a mean attempt to humiliate Maj. Gen. Pope and Brig. Gen. Sibley. Gen. Pope at once made a vigorous protest against a plan to have an independent military organization not under his command operate in his department and the order was modified. The Hatch Battalion of Cavalry eventually consisted of six companies but only four were organized that summer.

At Sibley's suggestion, Maj. Hatch and his battalion were ordered to the northern frontier at Pembina to guard against invasion from hostile Sioux bands in British territory. One section of the Third Battery Light Artillery, back from the campaign in the Dakotas, accompanied Hatch. Other sections were sent to Fort Ridgely, Fort Snelling and as escort for Gov. Ramsey in his expedition to the Red Lake River crossing to negotiate a treaty of land cession with the Chippewa.

The Hatch expedition to Pembina - a second "Moscow Expedition" - took place in October and November and was delayed by heavy snow, extreme cold, strong winds and blizzards. Large numbers of oxen and mules were lost because of lack of feed. Reaching Pembina in December, the expedition had to haul timber and build a stockade and quarters for men and animals.

Operating out of Pembina, Hatch made an early morning attack on a band of Sioux at St. Joseph, 40 miles west of Pembina, killing quite a number and dispersing the band. Another large band, followers of Little Crow, had camped near Fort Garry, Canada. The British wished to be rid of the Indians and Hatch, contrary to orders but with British connivance, violated British territory and secured the surrender of 400 Sioux, including Little Crow's wife and six children.

More important, he captured two notorious leaders of the 1862 massacre, Little Six (or Shakopee) and Medicine Bottle. They were escorted to Fort Snelling by Maj. Joseph Brown and a group of scouts and tried, convicted and hanged.

In June, 1864, Maj. Hatch resigned. The battalion was then increased to six companies and Lt. Col. C. Powell Adams, formerly of the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment, placed in command. The battalion remained on patrol and garrison duty guarding the frontier until June, 1866.

During the winter of 1863-64, the frontier patrol continued though with reduced forces. The Seventh, Ninth and Tenth Infantry Regiments were ordered south and the First Regiment Mounted Rangers, its term of enlistment having expired, was

mustered out of service. Only the Eighth Infantry and Third Battery of Light Artillery were left to take part in the campaign planned for the summer of 1864 in the Dakota Territory.

However, two other military organizations were taking shape. From October to December, 1863, the 12 companies of the Second Minnesota Cavalry Regiment were being mustered into service. In January, Robert N. McLaren became colonel. He eventually won the rank of brevet brigadier general. Many of the men in the regiment had served with the First Regiment Mounted Rangers, including Lt. Col. William Pfaender who received the same rank in the new regiment. Majors were Ebenezer A. Rice, John M. Thompson, Robert H. Rose, and John R. Jones.

The First, Second and Third Companies of Light Cavalry also became available. In the fall of 1861, they had been enlisted at Fort Snelling, then, contrary to their wishes, attached to the Fifth Iowa Cavalry. With this regiment, they fought in the South from Fort Donelson to Chickamauga. When their term of enlistment finally expired in the spring of 1864, Sen. Ramsey secured their separation from the Iowa regiment. With the addition of a fourth company of new recruits and adding many new men to the three old companies, the organization became Brackett's Battalion of Minnesota Cavalry, named after its commander, Maj. Alfred B. Brackett, who later was promoted to colonel.

Maj. Gen. Pope planned the 1864 campaign, the Northwestern Indian Expedition, in consultation with Gen. Sibley and Gen. Sully. Two brigades were involved. The first started from Sioux City, headquarters of Gen. Sully who was commander. Brackett's Battalion of Cavalry was the only Minnesota organization in this brigade which also included the Fifth and Sixth Iowa Cavalry, the Thirtieth Wisconsin Infantry, two companies of Dakota Cavalry and two sections of a prairie battery.

The Second Brigade consisted of the Eighth Minnesota Infantry mounted, eight companies of the Second Minnesota Cavalry and three sections of the Third Battery Light Artillery armed with six pound brass cannon and mountain howitzers. The brigade had about 2,100 men and a train of 106 wagons loaded with supplies and ammunition.

The Eighth Minnesota Infantry Regiment assembled at Paynesville May 24, 1864, where it received its regimental colors. Four days later it arrived at Fort Ridgely.

The Second Cavalry assembled at Fort Snelling the same month and marched for Fort Ridgely, accompanied by a fine band mounted on white horses.

The brigade's departure for the Dakotas resembled somewhat the departure of the earlier Civil War regiments for the south. Gen. Sibley and his staff went to Fort Ridgely to see the Second Brigade off and to give final orders to Col. Minor T. Thomas of the Eighth Infantry who was brigade commander. Sibley reviewed the brigade and when the men marched off toward the west, it was to the tune of "The Girl I Left Behind Me" played by the band.

They left the fort June 5. West of the fort there were no white inhabitants. The march was uneventful except for overturned wagons and tents leveled by storms. The first buffalo appeared as soon as the army crossed the line into the Dakota territory but hunting was forbidden because of the danger from hostile Indians.

On July 1, the Second Brigade made contact with the First under Gen. Sully on the Missouri River. The army now could depend upon river steamers for supplies and ammunition. After reaching the west bank of the Missouri, Sully left the Wisconsin regiment behind to build Fort Rice at the mouth of the Cannonball River.

The hostile Indians occupied some 1,600 lodges with from 5,000 to 6,000 warriors in a range of high hills cut by ravines and thick with timber. Sully's command followed the Cannonball River to the west and crossed the Heart River where a corral was built for the wagon train.

Sully then advanced rapidly to the Big Knife River and its range of hills. There on July 28 was fought the Battle of Ta-ha-kouty or Killdeer Mountain, the largest engagement of the Sioux War and a substantial victory for Sully and his men.

Five men were killed and 10 wounded while the Indian loss was estimated at 100 to 150. The Indians were driven from their camp and lost all their tepees, wagons, robes and accumulated stores.

Gen. Sully now went back for his wagon train, then marched west across the Dakota Bad Lands and the Little Missouri River, reaching the Yellowstone River not far from the present site of Glendive, Mont. The route through the Bad Lands was difficult. Often, a road had to be built. Hostile Indians hung constantly on the army's flanks. Water was scarce and very bad because of alkali. At the crossing of the Little Missouri River, a skirmish took place. Fighting with hostile Indians lasted two days and nights. Many of the animals were lost during the march through the Bad Lands.

On August 12, the army rejoiced at the sight of the good,



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society
Painting in Capitol Rotunda, St. Paul

Battle of Ta-Ha-Kouty or Killdeer Mountain painted by Carl L. Boeckmann. Here Gen. Sully's Northwestern Indian Expedition defeated the Sioux in the biggest battle of the Sioux War. Sully's forces are shown in the foreground.

sweet water of the Yellowstone and the steamboats waiting there laden with supplies. Crossing the river, the army followed its beautiful valley to Fort Union on the Missouri River.

The army turned eastward, following the Missouri to Fort Berthold and passing through country black with buffalo. Camped by a small lake, the soldiers had to fight off the buffalo who charged through the camp on their way to drink at the lake. More than 100 animals were killed, keeping the camp well-supplied with meat.

Near the site of the present city of Bismarck, Gen. Sully learned that Inkpaduta was at Dog's Den 60 miles north. Taking some of his best cavalry, he attempted a capture but the wily chief slipped away into British territory. However, some of his warriors hung on the army's flanks and two companies of cavalry plus a section of artillery were needed to drive them away.

By October 8, the Second Brigade was back at Fort Ridgely, having made its way across the Dakota plains with great difficulty because of the immense herds of buffalo.

The return of the Northwestern Indian Expedition practically brought the Sioux War to a close. The Eighth Minnesota Infantry was ordered south at once. The Second Cavalry remained on patrol during the fall and winter of 1864-65, covering the four frontier forts, Wadsworth, Abercrombie, Ripley and Ridgely.

In the fall of 1865, mustering out began but the last company did not leave government service until May, 1866. In the spring of 1865, Brackett's Battalion was ordered back to the military district commanded by Gen. Sully and remained on patrol in the eastern section of the Dakota Territory. It was finally mustered out in June, 1866.

The Third Battery of Light Artillery remained in service until February, 1866. During the summer of 1865, troops under Sibley's command conducted another expedition through the Dakota Territory searching for hostile Indians. None were found.

* * *

A quiet period lasting more than 30 years now settled over Minnesota's frontier. It was broken only by a minor incident, similar to the Cornstalk War, which occurred at Brainerd in 1872 and received the picturesque title of the "Blueberry War," probably because the blueberries were ripe at that time of year.

In July, two half-breed Chippewa from Leech Lake were arrested. They were said to have admitted that while drunk they had killed a white woman. A white woman had disappeared at that time, and the men, though protesting they could produce alibis, were lynched by a mob before trial could be held.

Rumors then spread that a large party of Indians was marching on Brainerd. Because of the ensuing panic, the sheriff telegraphed the governor for militia and three National Guard companies arrived the next day. Fortunately, all was quiet and the soldiers found nothing more serious to do than arrest a number of men involved in a saloon brawl. After a few days, the troops returned to St. Paul.

In 1898, however, what was probably the last of the long bloody encounters waged between United States troops and Indians in the struggle over America was fought on Minnesota soil.

The skirmish took place at Leech Lake and involved a Chippewa band and the Third Regiment United States Infantry which was stationed at Fort Snelling. The Leech Lake Chippewa belonged to the Pillager band and they complained they were being defrauded of the right to log dead or fallen timber on the reservation.

The Indians also were resentful because of indiscriminate arrests of the Indians by government authorities and one such arrest actually touched off the "uprising." Two Indians supposed to be selling whiskey on the reservation were taken into custody. A band of Indians set them free. Warrants were issued for the arrest of 20 Indians believed involved and, as the situation seemed threatening, the United States marshal wired St. Paul for troops.

In all, 100 men of the Third Regiment were sent to Walker. Almost all were raw recruits with little training. They were under the command of Brevet Maj. Melville C. Wilkinson but Brig. Gen. John M. Bacon, commander of the Department of Dakota, accompanied the expedition. Also present as a deputy marshal was Col. Timothy J. Sheehan who as a young man had so bravely defended Fort Ridgely against the Sioux in 1862.

At Walker the force went aboard the "Chief" and the "Flora," two small lake steamers, one of them towing a barge. A three-hour trip across the lake brought them to Sugar Point on the northwest side of the lake. Here lived "Old Bug" or Bugonaygeshig, one of the Indians who had been arrested, and some of the men who had rescued him.

The troops landed and arrested one Indian at "Old Bug's" cabin which stood in a clearing on the point. The woods were searched for others and three Indian villages were investigated but no young men were found.

Returning to Sugar Point, the troops stacked arms in preparation for their noon meal. At this moment a recruit's rifle fired accidentally and the shot was followed by a sudden burst of gunfire from the three sides of the clearing. The men immediately snatched up their guns and ran for cover. A skirmish line was formed and a brisk, sharp battle followed which lasted some three hours. Six men were killed, including Maj. Wilkinson. One of the men, Pvt. Oscar Burkhard, a hospital corpsman, won the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery in administering first aid to the wounded under fire.

Chippewa losses were unknown, although Sheehan estimated that six were killed.

News of the fighting created panic among the northern settlers. Soldiers, many of them members of the Minnesota National Guard, were sent to towns in the Leech Lake area. Battery A of the Minnesota Guard went to Cass Lake and Battery B to Deer River. Men from the Duluth Battalion of the Fourteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment were sent to Bemidji. Several other

companies of the Fourteenth Regiment which had been recruited for service in the Spanish-American War also were sent into the area so that the Leech Lake reservation was ringed with troops.

The 20 Indians were handed over and tried before Judge Lochren who will be remembered as the First Minnesota's officer and historian during the Civil War. Light sentences and fines were meted out and a thorough investigation of the Chippewa's grievances over timber was promised.

The Indians lost their war with the white men but, judged entirely from a military point of view, they won their last battle.

CHAPTER IV

MINNESOTA AND THE WAR WITH SPAIN

The 30 or so years between the end of the Civil War and the Sioux War and the beginning of the Spanish-American War were years of peace for Minnesota, allowing the state and its people to keep pace with the rapid growth and expansion which began as the country emerged from the Reconstruction period. By 1890 the frontier had disappeared and with it the vast herds of buffalo that once had blackened the great plains.

For most, it was a tranquil era. The United States rested secure behind two oceans. The mighty British navy controlled the seas and Britain, with the resources of its Indian Empire, guarded the peace of the world. Forgotten were the hostilities of the Civil War period when British sympathies lay with the South, and a tacit alliance already existed between Britain and the United States.

In Minnesota, the frontier posts in what had been Indian country--Forts Ridgely, Ripley and Abercrombie-- had been closed, but Fort Snelling was a permanent federal military installation. With the mustering out of the last Civil War soldier in 1866, the state of Minnesota, which had taken over the fort during the war, no longer had immediate use for it. Almost 10 years before, the property had been sold to Franklin Steele by Secretary of War John B. Floyd, in a transaction which was roundly criticized in several quarters. Steele later defaulted on payments for the land.

On May 26, 1866, Gen. W. T. Sherman wrote to Gen. Grant recommending that the United States retain Fort Snelling as a permanent installation and suggesting that a settlement be worked out with Steele. Nothing was done. In 1867, Gen. Sherman renewed his recommendation in stronger terms. Congress still failed to act.

After Gen. Grant became president, the attitude of congress changed and on May 7, 1870, a settlement was approved. On January 24, 1868, Steele had filed a claim against the United States government for \$168,000 for use of the property during a period of 81 months. He asked that the government pay the claim

and gave him a deed to the property after deducting such claims as the government had against him. Steele owed the government \$68,000.

He was allowed \$12,920 for the buildings and \$17,250 in rent. He received a deed to 6,394 acres of land, giving him title to much of what is now south Minneapolis. The government retained 1,521 acres. Thus, the financial claims balanced. Later, the government repurchased additional land.

The years following the Civil War also marked the development of the state's volunteer militia, which had provided the first Minnesota troops for the Civil War, into the Minnesota National Guard. The idea, of course, of a militia or body of citizen-soldiers as distinct from the career soldiers of the regular army, dates back to colonial days. Before the Revolutionary War, the militia was the only military force available to the colonies. Members were able-bodied men of various communities who organized for mutual protection, mainly against Indians. Primary requisites were marksmanship and a knowledge of woodcraft.

The militia, being the only organized group, furnished troops during the early days of the Revolution until the Continental Army was organized.

The first Militia Act passed by congress in 1792 provided for the establishment of a uniform militia throughout the United States which would enroll without pay "every able-bodied male citizen between the ages of 18 and 45, requiring that such citizen provide at his own expense a good musket or firelock, bayonet and belt, flints, a knapsack, etcetera and shall appear so armed, accoutered, and provided, when called out to exercise or into service."

In 1849 under this act, Minnesota as a territory enrolled every free, able-bodied male citizen in the militia. With statehood in 1858, the militia was organized by counties into six divisions, 12 brigades and 28 regiments. Since the units were not required actually to organize and assemble for drill, however, this was mainly a paper organization.

Some companies did meet regularly for practice and drill. These were called Volunteer Militia and were the beginning of Minnesota's National Guard. As was noted in the chapter on the Civil War, some of these companies formed the nucleus of the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment in 1861. Others served in the Sioux War.

After the Civil War, the Volunteer Militia was revived. By 1872, there were 417 officers and men. In 1882, there were 844

officers and men organized into 10 companies of infantry, two sections of artillery and two troops of cavalry. These units were formed into the First and Second Battalions. There also was an independent unit called Emmett Light Infantry.

In 1881 the legislature for the first time since the Civil War voted financial aid to the Guard, but 1882 is recorded as the year of the organization's "founding," since references to it as "Minnesota National Guard" appeared then for the first time. Also in that year an encampment of one week was held for the first time.

In 1883 the legislature enacted the first military code providing for a Minnesota National Guard of two infantry regiments, one battery of field artillery; election of officers; a five-year enlistment period; annual inspection and an allowance of \$7 for each officer and enlisted man inspected and found to be fully uniformed, armed and equipped; an annual encampment of seven days and pay for each officer and enlisted man present at \$1.50 a day, less 50 cents a day for subsistence if furnished by the state.

Each organization was authorized to adopt a constitution and by-laws stating the dues of each member, fixing fines and penalties for absence from or tardiness at drills and parades and for disobedience of orders or other acts prejudicial to military discipline, and providing for a board to determine specifications for uniforms and equipment.

This law, a milestone for the Guard, included a yearly appropriation of \$12,000.

First call to actual service for the new Guard came in 1884. Stillwater prison burned and Companies C, D, E and K of the First Regiment were called out to guard 300 prisoners until the cell block could be repaired. The same year, Companies A, B and I were called to help the sheriff of Hennepin County and the mayor of Minneapolis prevent a mob from harming prisoners in the county jail.

During the next 10 years, the Guard continued to grow. Finances were a pressing problem and the members bore more than 70 percent of the cost of their own maintenance.

Adjutant General John H. Mullen noted in his official report for 1890 that "The infantry are armed with the Springfield rifle, calibre 45, many of which have been in use for years and are unserviceable. The guns in possession of the Second Light Battery are absolutely worthless and dangerous." The men, he reported, were supplied with knapsacks but had no haversacks, no canteens, no blankets, no overcoats.

Also in the same year, blankets brought a rather plaintive plea from Mullen.

"The men have neither overcoats nor blankets, save one or two companies which have procured them at their own expense. Should the force be called out today the men would be obliged to appear in citizens' overcoats and without blankets. In this northern climate, overcoats and blankets are needed nearly every month of the year."

During these years, the Guard also was called out to suppress riots in Duluth, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Cloquet. Another infantry regiment, the Third, had been organized. The artillery had been increased to one battalion though designated "First Battalion Mounted Troops," since it contained one cavalry troop. This battalion eventually became the famous 151st Field Artillery World War I.

During the years 1884 to 1890, the Guard held regular encampments at White Bear Lake, Lake Calhoun, New Ulm, Fort Snelling, Lake City and Mankato. In 1890, while the First Infantry and Mounted Battalion were in camp near Lake City, the men took part in rescue operations after the "Sea Wing" disaster on Lake Pepin.

The "Sea Wing," a river steamer, left Red Wing July 13 with a crew of 11 and 198 passengers on an excursion to the National Guard camp. The day was intensely hot and ended with a threat of storms. A tornado had passed near St. Paul.

At 8 p.m., the boat left Lake City on its return trip. Near the middle of the lake, a swiftly-gathering storm and gale capsized the steamer.

All through the stormy night, Guard officers and men worked to rescue the survivors and recover the dead. For three days and nights the work continued. Ninety-eight lives were lost.

In 1891, Lake City residents donated the camp as a permanent encampment grounds. For the next 40 years the Minnesota National Guard held yearly rendezvous at the camp named Camp Lakeview.

Located on the west bank of Lake Pepin a mile south of Lake City and in the shadow of towering bluffs, it was one of the most beautiful spots in the state. The original grant by Lake City citizens consisted of 160 acres. The state added another 29 acres some years later.

During these years, the National Guard units in their ornate uniforms were becoming a colorful part of the life of the communities in which they were organized. These were the years of

the Gay Nineties and the companies, having become expert at drill, were in great demand for parades, exhibitions and drill contests.

The medical corps reports for this period are interesting, too, and deal with problems beyond the experience of the modern soldier.

In the adjutant general's report for 1896, R. J. Fitzgerald, lieutenant colonel and medical director, was concerned not only with the men but with the animals during the encampment at Lake City in June and July of 1895.

"The practice of watering horses from the lake should be condemned as the lake during the warm months contains a vegetable fungus which, when swallowed, produces irritation of the alimentary canal, thus swelling the sick list and diminishing the working strength."

Later he commented on the company messes: "The food," he reported, "was abundant, of good quality and as a rule was well prepared. It was daily inspected by a medical officer and such portions as deemed unfit for consumption were condemned."

"The only fault to be found in most company messes was the oversupply and the tendency of providing delicacies which are unfit for the soldier in the field."

He also noted that the department needed six litters, 12 hospital corps manuals, and one field hospital tent and that the ambulance was in need of repair at a cost of \$10 or \$15.

It was fortunate that Minnesota's National Guard was growing in strength and proficiency because the nation soon was to have need of its services.

A war with Spain was smoldering and finally burst into flames in the spring of 1898.

The country had been aroused by newspaper accounts of conditions in the Spanish colonies of the West Indies, especially Cuba, Spain's "Pearl of the Antilles." The island was governed in the old Spanish colonial tradition of merciless exploitation. The Cubans had been in frequent revolt against Spanish rule since 1820.

In Rome, Pope Leo XIII, hoping to avert war, offered to help the United States and Cuba work out their differences with regard to the rebellion in Cuba. He chose Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul as his American representative in this delicate mission. Archbishop Ireland, who had been chaplain of the Fifth Minnesota Infantry Regiment during the Civil War, was selected because of his unquestioned loyalty to his country and his friendly re-



lations with the president and with members of the cabinet.

Archbishop Ireland labored diligently and hopefully for peace. But people remembered the *Maine*, the American ship which had mysteriously blown up in the harbor of Havana and many of them--often called "War Hawks" or "jingoes" favored military intervention by the United States. Knowing his mission to be fruitless, the archbishop finally left Washington. "I have labored for peace, but if the will of the nation is for war, I pray that victory alight on the banners of my country," he said.

Sen. Cushman K. Davis of Minnesota, chairman of the senate committee on foreign relations, played an important role in guiding a war resolution through the senate.

On the eve of war, the United States Army was not much larger than it had been before the Civil War. Congress had fixed its size at 25,000 men but its equipment and training had been sadly neglected during the intervening years when it had received but meager support from Congress.

The United States navy was growing but in 1898, it consisted of only six battleships, a dozen cruisers and 15 or 16 monitors, all but four built during the Civil War period.

In Minnesota as early as February, 1898, volunteer groups of all sorts were being organized and National Guardsmen were looking to their arms and equipment. Some of these men had



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Camp Lakeview at Lake City, Minn., which became Minnesota's National Guard camp in 1891. The Guard had camped there since 1884.

begun to raise volunteer units. There even was a proposal for forming a company of "wheelmen" or "bicycle troops."

In Duluth, a group of young men organized in March sought state and federal recognition of a naval reserve unit. Early in April young men who had joined the navy in the hope of quick action began to leave the state. The Third United States Infantry, which had been stationed at Fort Snelling for 10 years, was ordered south. By this time the regiment included many Minnesotans.

The Civil War veterans, sometimes entire posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, begged the adjutant general to make use of them. They offered themselves as artillerymen serving coastal defense units, as drill masters and even for the humblest position if the country would use them.

"Give me a chance like a good fellow," a former comrade-in-arms wrote the adjutant general. "Just as young as ever and would like a whack at them"

Fervor ran so high there was fear that "Wall Street," which contrary to later communist propaganda had never wanted the

war, would bring pressure for a peaceful solution. State officials were warned against jingoism but one said privately: "I had great hopes that the war cloud would break and that the young men of Minnesota would have an opportunity to gain glory on a field of battle, but it seems now that the eastern money men will intervene and prevent war. Under such circumstances I feel sick at heart."

His hopes were realized on April 23 when President McKinley, acting under the Militia Act of 1792, called on the states to volunteer troops. On April 24, congress declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Spain.

The call was for 125,000 men and Minnesota's assigned quota was three regiments. The three Minnesota National Guard regiments, the First, Second and Third Regiments of Infantry, volunteered to fill the quota. Their combined strength was 3,600 men and they were equipped with about half the required number of rifles (Springfield, 45 caliber) and 75,000 rounds of ammunition.

The First and Second Regiments consisted of 10 companies each; the Third had eight. In issuing the call for volunteers, however, Gov. David M. Clough specified regiments of 12 companies each to comply with the Hull army reorganization bill which became law April 26. Under the new law, each infantry regiment was to consist of three battalions of four companies each.

To bring ranks to full strength, the governor called upon some of the independent volunteer organizations which had been formed. On April 28 Hermann Muehlberg, adjutant general, ordered the regiments to report to St. Paul "with one day's cooked rations in the haversacks."

In the cities and towns where the companies were mobilizing, flags and bunting decorated the streets. At receptions and banquets the departing volunteers were honored and the war-bound men paraded to the railway stations escorted, in many instances, by the veterans of 1861. Bands played, bells rang, cannons boomed as the trains pulled away.

"The rapid mobilization resulted in our troops being the first volunteer forces mustered into the service of the United States," Gen. Muehlberg noted in his report for the year 1898. "In 1861 Minnesota had the proud distinction of being the first state in the Union offering her troops to President Lincoln."

"It is a coincidence worthy of mention," he added, "that the First Minnesota Regiment for the Civil War was mustered in on April 29, 1861, and that the first three regiments for the present war were mobilized at St. Paul April 29, 1898."



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Company B of the 13th Minnesota Regiment settles down in one of the stock barns at Camp Ramsey on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

The state fairgrounds midway between Minneapolis and St. Paul had been selected as the place of rendezvous for the regiments and the site was renamed Camp Ramsey in honor of Alexander Ramsey, one of Lincoln's great Civil War governors who was still living.

As the companies arrived in St. Paul, they were greeted with an almost continuous ovation. The regiments met at the old capitol on Wabasha between Tenth and Exchange streets where they began the long march to the fairgrounds. With bands playing and flags flying, they passed in review before the governor, then marched along Wabasha, thick with cheering crowds, to University avenue; westward on University to Snelling avenue and northward on Snelling to the fairgrounds.

The governor and his staff freed themselves of the milling crowds and dashed ahead to the fairgrounds where they again reviewed the troops.

Now the daily routine of inspection and drill--five hours of strenuous drill--began. The Second Regiment was given the limited supply of tents and camped on what is now known as

Machinery Hill. The First and Third Regiments settled down in 12 of the large stock barns.

Sunday was visitor's day and, according to an old newspaper account, 40,000 people visited the men on their second Sunday in camp, 15,000 of them coming from outside the Twin Cities. They came on special excursion trains carrying baskets loaded with good things to eat.

From May 6 to 8 the regiments were mustered into federal service. Gov. Clough followed the Civil War precedent in assigning new numbers to the regiments. The First became the 13th Regiment, the Second the 12th Regiment and the Third the Fourteenth Infantry Regiment, Minnesota Volunteers. The numbers began where the numbering had ended when the last Minnesota Infantry Regiment had been mustered in for service in the South in 1864.

These regiments resembled their predecessors of the 1860s in another respect. They were armed with the same type of rifles.

Joseph Bobleter of New Ulm, a Civil War veteran and ranking National Guard officer, was named colonel of the 12th Regiment; Frank B. McCoy, lieutenant colonel; George W. Mead, Arthur W. Wright and George S. Whitney, majors. In bringing his regiment up to full strength, Col. Bobleter secured the services of John Lind who became quartermaster with the rank of first lieutenant. The following November, Lind was elected governor of Minnesota and many believed his efficient work for his regiment helped him win the election.

The 12th Regiment came largely from southern Minnesota. Company A was from New Ulm; B, from Faribault; C, Winona; D, Fairmont; E, Winona; F, Spring Valley; G, Austin; H, St. James; I, Albert Lea; K, Waseca; L, St. Paul and M, Blue Earth City.

Field officers of the 13th Regiment were Charles McC. Reeve, colonel; Wascott W. Price, lieutenant colonel; Edward S. Bean, Frederick W. Ames and John S. Frederick, majors.

This regiment was the pride of the Twin Cities, Companies A, B, F, I and L having come from Minneapolis, and C, D, E and H from St. Paul. G was from Red Wing, K from Stillwater and M from St. Cloud. Members were largely professional and business men, tradesmen and college and university students.

Officers of the 14th Regiment were Charles A. Van Duzee, colonel; Charles E. Johnson, lieutenant colonel, and Francis H. Bidwell, Edward S. Person and Charles M. Schaeffer, majors.

This was the smallest of the regiments, numbering only eight



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

"A Brisk Engagement" was the tongue-in-cheek caption for this picture. A Minnesota company is gathered for mess. The men went to the Philippines in those heavy blue serge uniforms.

companies when the war began. Recruited up to full strength, however, the regiment consisted of Companies A, C, and G from Duluth; B from Anoka; D, Zumbrota; E, Merriam Park; F, Fergus Falls; H, Olivia; K, Long Prairie; L, Crookston; M, Princeton and I, recruited at large.

Only one of these regiments, the 13th, was to see foreign service. On May 16, the 12th and 14th Regiments left by train for Camp Thomas at Chickamauga National Park in Georgia. Here they camped near each other on the famous battlefield which had been converted into a park. They were not far from Missionary Ridge where the Second Minnesota Infantry Regiment had distinguished itself in the War Between the States.

The men now settled down to the monotony of drill, guard duty and police duty which was to last through the long, hot southern summer. Boredom and bad food were their lot.

Breakfast, as described by the Rev. Ezra C. Clemans, regimental chaplain, in a letter to the St. Paul Pioneer Press, consisted of "a boiled potato with the skin on, a slab of hardtack, a piece of fat pork and in each cup a half-pint of black coffee. Some of these boys came from the best homes of Minnesota and could not be hired to eat such a breakfast at home."

This menu was served three times a day. Later on bacon,

fresh beef, corned beef, salt pork, rice, beans, hard bread were added. As Franklin F. Holbrook points on in his "Minnesota in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection," this was not what a modern dietitian would prescribe as an ideal ration for a hot climate.

Water for drinking or bathing was scarce and of dubious quality; drainage was bad, since the soil was clay over limestone, making it difficult to build properly constructed sinks to dispose of refuse.

The men, who were not assigned to fight the enemy, found themselves facing a major menace in their own ranks--typhoid fever, the scourge of the Civil War armies. And unfortunately during the years separating the two wars, medical science had progressed but little in learning the causes of the disease and how to eliminate it.

However, Maj. Walter Reed, the army surgeon who was to become famous for his work in discovering the cause of yellow fever, investigated the situation at Camp Thomas and took steps to control the disease.

Meanwhile, the sick lists were growing long. Reed's board recorded 433 cases of typhoid fever, with 18 deaths, among the men of the 12th Regiment. The 14th Regiment was not so hard hit, with 286 "probable" cases of typhoid fever and eight deaths due either to typhoid fever or typhoid pneumonia.

In spite of sickness, the Minnesota regiments still hoped for overseas service. However, on August 12 word arrived of the signing of the peace protocol between the United States and Spain. With the fighting over, the men wished to go home. They had volunteered to fight but did not want garrison duty in Cuba or Puerto Rico.

Camp Thomas having been declared dangerous to the health of the troops, the 12th Regiment was transferred on August 23 to Camp Hamilton at Lexington, Ky., where they remained until September 15 when they left for home.

On August 27, the 14th Regiment had been moved from Camp Thomas to Camp Poland at Knoxville, Tenn., and here they also remained until September when they left for St. Paul.

Welcomes for both regiments were as tumultuous as their send-offs had been almost five months before. After a 30-day regimental furlough, the members of the 12th Regiment were mustered out of service on November 5.

The regiment had mustered 55 officers and 1,284 men; 49 officers and 1,216 men were with the regiment when mustered



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

The 14th Minnesota Regiment returns from the south in 1899 after the end of the Spanish-American War. This old photograph taken in St. Paul shows the city's auditorium in the background.

out. Casualties were one officer and 17 men dead of disease; one drowned, one suicide, five deserters.

Furloughs for some of the men of the 14th Regiment were cut short by the outbreak of fighting between the Chippewa at Leech Lake and a detachment of the Third United States Infantry, described in the preceding chapter. A force of 276 officers and men of the 14th Regiment was stationed at Bemidji, along sections of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railways and near Cass Lake to help keep order until the trouble with the Indians was resolved.

On November 18 the men were mustered out of service. The regiment had enrolled 60 officers and 1,275 men; 50 officers and 1,180 men were mustered out. Nine had died and two had deserted. Others had been lost through resignation, discharge or transfer.

The 13th Minnesota Infantry Regiment was overseas almost 15 months. On May 12, it was ordered to join the expedition to the Philippines where Admiral Dewey in the Battle of Manila Bay on May 1 had destroyed the Spanish fleet. Now he was

awaiting an expeditionary force which would capture and occupy the city.

Arriving at Camp Merritt in San Francisco, the Minnesota regiment remained there five weeks--weeks filled with drill and other training exercises. On June 26, the men steamed out of San Francisco harbor on the City of Para. First stop was Honolulu. Hawaii then was a republic but a bill providing for its annexation to the United States had been before the senate during the past year. Annexation took place August 12. Guam, Wake and Baker Islands also came into the possession of the United States during this period.

On August 7, the 13th Regiment landed near Manila where it became part of the Third Brigade, First Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, father of the five-star general of World War II.

The Battle of Manila was fought August 13. The city was held by more than 13,000 Spanish troops who put up a token resistance.

For the 13th Regiment, however, fighting was sharp for a time. The ground over which they were fighting was covered with dense tropical vegetation.

Maj. Arthur M. Diggles, writing to the St. Paul Pioneer Press, reported that "we were, in fact, exposed to the heaviest firing of the battle....Some of our men were on the fighting line during the whole day.."

A letter from Lt. Carl Stone revealed that "...we in our battalion, which was in support, had to lie back and take the whole fire of the Spanish and never fire a shot in return....only the absolute inability of the Spanish to hit anything except by the merest accident prevented our regiment being cut all to pieces..."

Toward the end of the day, the Spanish surrendered the city and the war was over. The peace protocol actually had been signed before the battle was fought but news of it did not reach Manila until August 16.

But now trouble was brewing between the American forces and the Filipino insurgents. Like the Cubans, the Filipinos had been in frequent revolt against Spain for years. Led by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, the insurgents had harassed the Spanish continually during the months Dewey had waited for a landing force. The Filipinos did not take part in the occupation of Manila. When the city fell, however, they actually were in possession of all the Philippine Islands with the exception of Manila and two other cities.

For seven months, the 13th Regiment formed part of the provost



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

13th Minnesota Volunteers wade through a river in the Philippines during the Battle of Santa Maria, near Manila.

guard in Manila. The men sometimes chafed at the assignment. With the fighting apparently over, they wished to go home.

"I am not homesick," wrote Wirt Wilson to his father, former Attorney General George P. Wilson, "but now that we have accomplished what we came for, I am willing to come back any time."

On February 4, 1899, after increasing tension and alarms, the war known as the Philippine Insurrection broke out between the Filipinos and the United States forces. Possibly skillful diplomacy combined with a promise of eventual independence would have averted trouble but Aguinaldo tired of the dragged-out peace negotiations and concluded that the McKinley administration intended to substitute an American form of colonial administration for the defunct Spanish system.

The new war was much more serious than the Spanish-American War had been. It lasted three years and employed more than 100,000 American soldiers. The 13th Minnesota Regiment took



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Men of the 13th Minnesota Regiment at a rest camp in Manila, the Philippines.

part in the defense of Manila. For six days there was fighting in trenches outside the city. The Minnesota men, stationed inside, "were all crazy to get out upon the firing line and many went, notwithstanding orders to the contrary," reported Dr. Harry P. Ritchie, the regiment's assistant surgeon. He estimated that Minnesota men took part in every skirmish and charge. "I think the whole regiment has been out," he added.

According to another account, some 20 Minnesotans heard of an attack by a Kansas company and when the company lined up, "It was one of the largest companies in the Eighth Army Corps." Such enthusiasm, of course, was in violation of orders, and offenders, when caught, were court-martialed. Inside the city, it took considerable courage to patrol the dark streets, since Manila was full of insurgents and their sympathizers.

In March the regiment was relieved of provost duty and assigned to the Third Brigade in Gen. MacArthur's Second Division. The men took part in the Battle of Mariquina, in the defense of the railroad north of Manila and in the Battle of Santa



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Gov. John Lind and his staff line up in San Francisco to greet the 13th Minnesota Regiment on its return from the Philippines.

Maria where the insurgents attempted to destroy a railroad bridge. In a 33-day expedition covering 120 miles, under a blistering sun and through jungles and swamps, the regiment helped capture 28 towns and destroyed quantities of enemy stores.

In August, 1899, the regiment was ordered home and it arrived in San Francisco September 7. Gov. Lind and his staff met them. Money to transport the regiment home intact was raised by subscription. At length, on October 3, the men were mustered out of service and began a trip home that was marked by receptions and patriotic demonstrations along the way and ended with homecoming celebrations throughout the state.

The regiment had enrolled 60 officers and 1,292 men. A total of 51 officers and 952 men was mustered out; six officers and 68 men had been wounded in action; four men killed in action; one officer and two men died of wounds and one officer and 33 men of disease, for the most part smallpox or typhoid fever.

On May 25, 1898, President McKinley had issued a second call for 75,000 additional volunteers. Nearly a thousand new recruits were sent to fill up the three regiments already in service. Since Minnesota had had only three National Guard regiments, it now organized a fourth to be known as the 15th

Minnesota Infantry Regiment. John C. Shandrew was named colonel; Harry A. Leonhaeuser, a West Point graduate who had been captain in the regular army, was lieutenant colonel, and Paul H. Gotzian and Daniel W. Hand, majors. With the serious illness of Col. Shandrew, Leonhaeuser became regimental commander.

The 15th Regiment, like the 12th and 14th, did not go overseas but it, too, fought a battle with disease. The regiment's muster at Camp Ramsey had not yet been completed when typhoid fever broke out. Within little more than a month there were 180 cases.

The regimental surgeons, with city and state health authorities, worked hard to prevent the spread of the disease. Water supplies were analyzed and, though no germs were found, all water was ordered boiled and tank wagons were disinfected frequently with live steam. St. Paul water, known to be safe, was used instead of water drawn from wells at the camp.

Strict regulations regarding personal cleanliness and disposal of refuse were issued and all companies were moved twice to new camp sites on the fairgrounds. Vacated sites were sprinkled with lime.

Still the disease spread and 20 men a day were coming down with the disease. There were not enough ambulances to carry the men to hospitals, so streetcars were pressed into service. Nearly 400 men were now sick.

The regiment next was moved to Fort Snelling but still the epidemic continued. On September 15, the regiment left the fort for Camp Meade, near Middletown, Pa., where it became part of the Third Brigade, First Division, Second Army Corps. Here, the Walter Reed Board investigated the epidemic. As the result of sanitary measures it recommended--thorough disinfecting of tents, clothing, blankets, and a change of camp sites--the epidemic finally was stamped out.

The board also investigated Camp Ramsey and decided that Minneapolis, where the soldiers went frequently on pass, probably was the source of the infection. The city's water supply was known to have been infected for several years and the city had had 3,000 cases of typhoid fever in 1897 and some less in 1898. The board also decided the men of the 12th and 14th Regiments had been infected before leaving for the South.

On November 15, the 15th Regiment was moved to Camp McKenzie, near Augusta, Ga., and here a mutiny occurred. One of the soldiers was killed by a saloon keeper after a quarrel. Feeling that the man never would be convicted in a local court--

which turned out to be the case—a mob originally composed of nearly 200 men but later reduced to about 70 seized ammunition and started for the saloon, apparently intending to lynch the man.

Col. Leonhaeuser secured a cavalry group and stopped the men in time. Eight of the rioters were convicted and sentenced to terms ranging from six months to six years at hard labor and given dishonorable discharges. The court-martial also criticized the regiment's officers for neglect of duty, but the colonel was absolved of blame.

On March 27, 1899, the regiment was mustered out. A total of 52 officers and 1,275 men had been enrolled; six officers and 135 men had been lost through transfer, resignation or discharge; eight had deserted; only 20 had died, despite the epidemic.

In addition to the 5,348 officers and men who served in the Minnesota infantry regiments, more than 3,000 other Minnesotans took part in the Spanish-American War. There were 2,027 who enlisted in the regular army, the largest number of them in the Third United States Infantry Regiment which had been stationed at Fort Snelling. The Third was shipped to Cuba and took part in the attacks at El Caney and San Juan Hill. In September the regiment returned to Fort Snelling, its ranks thinned by malaria and yellow fever.

After its campaign at Leech Lake, the Third Regiment again was sent overseas. In January, 1899, it left for the Philippines to take part in the Philippine Insurrection. The regiment remained there until 1902. After Mexican border service and World War I, the Third returned to Fort Snelling and remained there until 1939.

Another 133 Minnesota men enlisted in the regiments of other states and 562 entered the navy or marine corps.

Lastly, 428 enlisted in United States volunteer organizations. Some of these were engineers with Company G of Second Volunteer Engineers, organized in Minnesota. They did occupation duty and construction and sanitary work around Havana. Another 198 men were with the 45th Volunteer Infantry, a regiment organized for service in the Philippines in 1899.

Altogether, 8,498 men from Minnesota took part in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection.

CHAPTER V

MINNESOTA AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

In the years following the Spanish-American War, Europe was an armed camp, and the world stood constantly on the brink of war. In America, again unprepared for armed conflict, the "boys in blue and gray" had become men in olive drab.

The United States at first stood clear of the tension in Europe, but the war with Spain had shown the need for a larger, better trained and equipped armed force. In 1900, the regular army's size was increased to 100,000 troops and the federal appropriation for the militia was raised to \$1,000,000. Minnesota's allotment was \$15,527.02.

In 1903 the Dick Bill was passed distinguishing between organized and unorganized militia and recognizing the National Guards of the various states as a federal force. They were to be organized, armed and disciplined within five years in the same manner as the regular army. The states were to train and appoint officers. Regular army officers were to be detailed to the state units as inspector-instructors. Under a second bill passed in 1908, federal aid was increased to \$2,000,000. Both measures were the result of work by Charles Dick, United States senator from Ohio, a major general of the Ohio National Guard and a veteran of the Spanish-American War.

The plan did not provide for a balanced organization of Guard units containing the correct proportion of infantry, artillery, cavalry, engineers and others.

Between 1908 and 1916, the First Battalion of Artillery was increased by several batteries and renamed the First Artillery Regiment. Thus the Minnesota National Guard consisted of three regiments of infantry and one of artillery.

In 1913, the legislature passed an act providing for armories. City and state were to share equally in construction. Cost was not to exceed \$15,000 for each armory. Companies had been drilling in basements, city halls, dance halls, store buildings. Now 16 armories were built throughout the state.

A Naval Militia had existed in a number of states, and the Dick Bill of 1903 which gave federal aid and status for National

Guard units within the states also made it possible for the federal government to loan ships, equipment, supplies and arms to the states which had Naval Militia.

The Minnesota Naval Militia was organized at Duluth the same year. First training ship assigned to Minnesota was the U. S. S. Gopher, formerly the U. S. S. Fern, the second ship of that name. She was a two-masted schooner launched at New York in 1871 and commissioned in 1891. With her name changed to Gopher, she was taken to Detroit in 1906 and turned over to the Minnesota Naval Militia who sailed her to Duluth. She served as the militia's training ship until 1917. During those years the Gopher carried the men on memorable training cruises.

In 1910 a total of 155 officers and men (91 per cent of the membership of the Minnesota organization) took part in the annual 15-day training cruise. The Gopher joined other training ships of the Great Lakes Squadron at Thunder Bay, then proceeded via Port Huron, Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie to Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit and back to Port Huron for the annual inspection by the United States Navy's board of inspectors.

One report states the cruise "offered unusual opportunities for navigation, both coasting and deep sea, for signal drills, target practice, man-overboard drills and competition, ship handling and emergency drills."

That year the Gopher cruised 3,705 miles on seven training missions. A year or so later the militia men were called to duty during a forest fire at Grand Marais. The town was surrounded by fire, and the training ship manned by the Duluth divisions carried supplies and fire fighters, helped battle the flames and stood by to evacuate the population.

In 1914 a revised Naval Militia Act was passed by congress providing for the organizing, equipping, arming and training of the Naval Militia by the federal government so it could be called into service in time of war.

In 1915, new divisions (roughly equivalent to companies) were mustered in at Bemidji, Crosby and Lindstrom. By 1916 the militia had four divisions.

It became apparent in 1916 that the United States would be drawn into the war in Europe and, with preparedness now the watchword, the National Defense Act was passed in June. The Navy Department gave the Naval Militia the status of Naval Volunteers. Four more divisions were organized and by January of 1917, the Minnesota Volunteers had 28 officers and 511 enlisted men.

The Defense Act gave the National Guard greater federal support and control, and for the first time the Guard became a part of the United States Army when in active military service of the United States. Provision was made for calling or drafting the Guard into federal service.

The Naval Volunteers did not see service until the United States was at war with Germany less than a year later, but the new act had scarcely been published before the National Guard was called into federal service.

On the Mexican border, Francisco (Pancho) Villa, leader of a small army of Mexican revolutionaries, attacked Columbus, N. M., looting the town and killing some of the inhabitants. An expeditionary force commanded by Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing was formed to pursue Villa. Pershing's force was attacked, two soldiers killed and Villa escaped.

The raids continued with Villa crossing the border to kill and loot. On June 18 President Wilson called out a large part of the National Guard for border patrol duty.

Minnesota's three infantry regiments, the First, Second and Third, and the First Minnesota Field Artillery were mobilized and sent to Llano Grande, Texas.

However, these were not the first Minnesotans to become involved with the serious internal upheaval going on in Mexico during these years. Two years earlier, a detachment of American marines, which included Minnesota men, had been ordered to take Veracruz, the Mexican city on the Gulf of Mexico where Gen. Winfield Scott had landed 67 years earlier during the Mexican War. In the two days of fighting to win control of the city, 18 Americans were killed. Two men from Minnesota received the Congressional Medal of Honor for distinguished conduct during this battle.

The four Minnesota regiments which helped patrol the troubled border during 1916 were not in combat but had seven months of intensive training in Texas dust and heat.

The artillery regiment trained under conditions somewhat less than ideal. There were no artillery ranges and the men sometimes marched 60 miles to find a place to practice gunnery. Cannon were towed behind trucks. The regiment had some horses but those could not be used because the steel collars which the army had purchased were not adjustable and didn't fit the horses.

By the time the Minnesotans returned home the following winter for mustering out, war with Europe was a certainty. On February 3, 1917, diplomatic relations with Germany had been



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

A truck belonging to the 34th "Sandstorm" Division is mired in mud during the division's tour of duty on the Mexican border.

broken off and on April 6, the United States declared war on Germany. The declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare by the German government would have meant the virtual end of United States trade with Europe and this situation with its accompanying dangers to American lives had become intolerable.

With the outbreak of the war came a violent surge of public opinion against everything German, an hysterical period in American life which was not without bizarre and unfortunate consequences.

Victims were not only persons of German birth or ancestry or those who had cultivated sympathy with the German and Austrian governments but also any group or individual who doubted the wisdom of the country's entry into the war. There were many such episodes in Minnesota.

The highly-respected and able Brig. Gen. Frederick E. Resche, a veteran of 30 years in the Minnesota National Guard, was honorably retired April 14, 1918, from command of the 68th Infantry Brigade. The reason apparently was the growing feeling that a person of German birth should not be permitted to keep an important position in the armed forces. There was a rush to



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Third Minnesota Regiment's tents awash after a storm at Llano Grande on the Mexican border.

eliminate the study of German from public high schools with the unfortunate result that, in time, study of all foreign languages was curtailed in many school programs.

Names were changed, too. New Germany became Young America. The German American bank in Minneapolis became the North American bank. Though it did not seem funny at the time, sauerkraut became "liberty cabbage" and dachshunds became "liberty hounds."

America had changed in less than a year from a nation dedicated to neutrality to one working for "preparedness" and ready to fight for American rights on the high seas.

In March, 1917, the First Infantry Regiment already had been recalled to federal service to guard iron mines, railroads and ore docks, flour mills and elevators, foundries, railroad terminals and bridges across the Mississippi, St. Croix, Minnesota and Red Rivers against possible sabotage.

At the outbreak of war, seven of the Naval Militia divisions left almost at once for the Philadelphia Navy Yard. One veteran



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

First Minnesota Regiment returns from Mexican border duty in 1917.
The men are marching down Fourth Street, St. Paul.

recalls that they arrived in Philadelphia in a snowstorm, took a streetcar to the Navy Yard and then were not permitted to enter. Arrangements finally were made to feed them, and then the Minnesotans were marched to the U. S. S. Massachusetts and U. S. S. Iowa where they were temporarily berthed. Later the men were assigned to the U. S. S. Kansas, the Iowa and Massachusetts.

In May the Eighth Naval Militia Division was sent to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois.

Several months passed, however, before all the National Guard regiments were drafted into federal service. The delay was due largely to the fact that the war, though imminent for months, nevertheless had caught the nation unprepared to fight overseas on a large scale against a first class foreign power.

In Washington during the spring of 1917, the war department and the Wilson administration were forming vital military policies which needed legislation to be effective. These changes demanded time for thought, study and debate in congress. Never again was America to have so much time to prepare to fight after she had declared war. Yet these very changes helped to make it

possible to develop a modern military system without which the United States would have been in serious straits 24 years later when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

A number of important questions, unprecedented in the United States, needed answering. What should be the size and composition of the armed forces to be organized for service overseas? Should they be raised by the volunteer system which had become traditional or by a form of compulsory military service? If compulsory, what exemptions would be necessary in a highly industrialized nation? Was the new army to be composed largely of regiments contributed by states, bearing state names and composed of residents from those states, as in the past, or were the men from all parts of the country to become so mixed that their places of origin ceased to be important?

As the weeks passed, these issues were resolved and on May 18, congress passed the Selective Service Act. Men from 21 to 31 years of age registered on June 5. Five classifications were provided. Class I included those who in the opinion of the draft boards should leave for service as soon as called. Classes II, III and IV included men who were not to be called except in extreme emergency. These were men with dependents or who were essential to industry or agriculture. Class V included men who were entirely exempt such as aliens, inmates of state institutions and others.

In Minnesota, the task of setting up draft boards fell to the adjutant general, Fred B. Wood, who served until May of 1917, and to Brig. Gen. W. F. Rhinow who succeeded him. On Rhinow's shoulders fell much of the burden of preparing Minnesota's National Guard regiments for war and of organizing an effective state guard to serve within Minnesota, replacing the regiments in federal service.

By May 8, 121 county and ward draft boards had been set up, no less than one to a county but two each in Stearns and Ottertail counties, 10 in St. Louis county, 12 in Ramsey and 14 in Hennepin.

Board members were the county sheriff as chairman, county auditor, county physician, if there was one, or a competent medical man, and two or more clerks.

In addition, Wood established five district or appeal boards to rule on disputed cases. Located in Mankato, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth and Crookston, these had as members a lawyer, physician and representatives from labor, agriculture and industry.

In the first draft call, 26,021 Minnesota men were enrolled.



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Good-byes are said at the St. Paul depot as Minnesota men leave for duty in World War I.

Enlistments reduced this number to 17,778. However, the government was not ready to care for so many and it was not until September 5, five months after the declaration of war, that the first group of draftees--nearly 900--finally left for camp. Since the training camps were not yet ready, there were further delays and large numbers of draftees did not leave the state until February of 1918.

In the meantime, Minnesota's National Guard regiments long since had departed and one of them already was fighting in France.

In the spring of 1917, these National Guard regiments had numbered approximately 4,800 officers and men when released from service on the Mexican border. Recruiting through the spring and summer months brought them up to full wartime strength.

With the ambulance and field hospital companies, some sanitary troops and staff and brigade headquarters, the Minnesota troops numbered 7,321 officers and men. Many were recent enlistees but there was a considerable number of men who had had some experience and quite a bit of training.



Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

First Minnesota Field Artillery passes in review just before the outbreak of World War I. At the beginning of the war, it was redesignated the 151st Field Artillery.

There were other smaller units which formed at this time such as Base Hospital 26, with personnel chiefly from Minneapolis and St. Paul. They trained at Fort McPherson, Ga., before being sent overseas. A Hamline university ambulance unit actually was the first Minnesota unit to leave the state. It went to Allentown, Pa., in June for training.

On June 23 the First Minnesota Artillery was mobilized at Fort Snelling. This regiment, which was redesignated the 151st Field Artillery, was to be the only state regiment to go through the First World War very nearly intact.

The regiment had been formed in 1882 from the Emmet Light Artillery Regiment of St. Paul and the Minneapolis Zouave Corps. It had been called out in 1898 in connection with the Leech Lake skirmish with the Chippewa and, as already mentioned, had mounted guard on the Mexican border.

At that time, the regiment was entirely a Minneapolis-St. Paul organization. Batteries A, B, and C were from St. Paul and Bat-



Detachment of men from Battery A, 151st Field Artillery, drags logs through the mud to be used for gun emplacements and dugouts at Pexonne, France.

teries D, E, and F from Minneapolis. All members of Battery F were students at the University of Minnesota where the battery had been formed.

Regimental commander was Col. George E. Leach, son of Capt. William B. Leach, adjutant of the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment of the Civil War.

In September the regiment was ordered to Camp Mills, N. Y., where it became part of a National Guard Division known as the 42nd or "Rainbow" Division made up of troops from 26 states.

After six weeks of training, the regiment, numbering 1,452 officers and men, sailed for France from Hoboken, N. J., aboard the troop transport, President Lincoln. It landed at St. Nazaire on the last day of October.

In February, 1918, after three months of training with the French 75 millimeter cannon, the artillery in general use at the time, the regiment became part of the Seventh French Army Corps stationed at the extreme right of the French line.

This was the Baccarat sector of the Lorraine front, a rolling country of forests and fields and an area which had been quiet for several months.

Here the guns went into position under cover of darkness. The men slept in pup tents because barracks were not completed and rain or snow fell nearly every day for two months.

Their first battle was not with the Germans but with the mud of Lorraine, mud which has been described by Louis Collins in his "History of the 151st Field Artillery" as "the wettest in the world and the dirtiest; the most treacherous mud and the coldest; the deepest and by far the muddiest." For days men and horses alike worked in it, slept in it, wallowed in it.

In June the division was transferred to the Champagne sector near Chalons-sur-Marne to take part in the Champagne Defensive, the repulse of the fifth great German offensive of the spring and summer of 1918.

The attack began about midnight July 14 with a tremendous artillery duel between heavy guns. The men of the 151st regiment with their lighter guns waited in their trenches for the first wave of German infantry to "go over the top" and cross the front-line positions of the French.

At 3:45 a.m., German infantrymen crawled from their trenches and began to cross "no man's land." They gained the first line of French redoubts and broke through after two or three hours of heavy fighting.

The time had come for the Minnesota regiment to begin a fire that was to last three days.

"All our guns are going at top speed," Col. Leach wrote in his diary on the first day of battle. "...Noon and we have had four guns destroyed and a good many killed and wounded and it has been a perfect hell..... My great anxiety is the ammunition, for it is getting low."

As day broke, a new danger emerged through the drifting smoke of battle. Huge German tanks were lumbering toward the trenches and snapping barbed wire. These were disposed of by the field artillery and a trench mortar battery.

The three-day defensive succeeded. The enemy's advance was checked not only here but also north at Chateau-Thierry where the Germans gave the American marines the name of "devil dogs."

On two hours notice the night of July 18, the Rainbow Division was withdrawn from the Champagne sector and ordered to the Chateau-Thierry salient where French Marshal Ferdinand Foch was to begin his counter-offensive. The journey by rail was made as usual on flat cars carrying guns, caissons and wagons, and in "40 Hommes-8 Chevaux" box cars.



The 151st Field Artillery encamped at Drouilly, France, June 24, 1918, before the beginning of the Champagne Defensive.

The 151st Regiment was unable to take up its position immediately because the roads were being heavily shelled by the enemy. The men lay down for the night in woods which still were a shambles and strewn with dead the burial squads had as yet been unable to reach.

Now the regiment took part in a military operation entirely different from the Champagne Defensive during which the guns did not change position. This was a counter-offensive and the batteries were to be on the move. The Rainbow Division now relieved the 26th (New England) Division as part of the First American Army Corps.

The Germans fought a delaying action and retired gradually to shorten their line. Pursuing them, the Minnesota men marched all night in drizzling rain through a sea of mud, along roads jammed with military traffic. At last the batteries took positions in a thick wood near the river Ourcq, a tributary of the Marne.

This became the scene of a long and fiercely fought battle. The fighting surged back and forth, Meurey Ferme was taken and one intelligence summary reported that the town of Sergy changed hands three times in little more than 24 hours. On July 30, the 151st fired 6,943 rounds.

The next day the regiment fired 8,452 rounds, three times laying down protecting barrages in front of advancing infantry.



Courtesy of Minnesota
Historical Society

Col. George E. Leach of the 151st Field Artillery. Col. Leach later became a major general and after World War I served as commanding general of the 34th Division.

Finally after eight days of fighting, the Germans began to retreat toward the Vesle River for a final stand.

During this action which had sewed up the Soissons-Rheims-Chateau-Thierry pocket, the 151st regiment had fired 54,709 rounds of ammunition.

Col. Leach later said that the battles of Ourcq and the Vesle River were in his opinion the most important of all the fighting in which the regiment took part. The Champagne Defensive and these Aisnes-Marne battles marked the turning point of the war.

In three days of fighting on the Vesle, companies of American infantry succeeded in crossing the river, supported by the 151st and other units of the 67th Field Artillery Brigade to which the 151st was attached.

Col. Leach noted in his diary on August 6: "The artillery began the preparation for the attack to cross the Vesle at noon and kept it up until 4:30 when we started a rolling barrage behind which the infantry crossed the river and gained their objective... At midnight we stopped a strong counter-attack."

On August 10 the 67th Brigade with the 151st regiment was ordered to withdraw. Gen. Pershing paid tribute to the men for their part in the fighting and so did the New York 69th Infantry, the "Fighting Irish," now the 165th Infantry, whose advance the Minnesota regiment had supported on the Vesle.

On September 7 the Rainbow Division found itself on the eve of another great battle, the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient. This was to be the first offensive of the newly organized First

American Army of which this division was now a part.

The Minnesotans never forgot the march which took them to within four kilometers of the front where their batteries were to go into position. No lights were permitted though the troops moved only at night, through rain, almost impassable mud, and along roads so choked with troops and equipment that the march was often halted for hours.

At 1 a.m. September 12 the artillery opened fire to prepare the way for the infantry which was massed in three lines. The 151st light artillery poured steel and gas into the German trenches and barbed wire entanglements. In front of the Minnesota regiment's guns were the Iowa and Alabama infantrymen waiting for the order to start across. At 5 a.m. after four hours of terrific, unceasing artillery barrage, the order came and the American infantrymen climbed out of their trenches to begin their charge.

"At the same time, the light artillery raised its fire," recounts Louis L. Collins in his graphic history of the regiment, "and the line of falling steel swept slowly along toward the north, progressing at the predetermined rate of 100 meters in four minutes."

Taken by surprise, the Germans began a retreat pursued by the Americans. By the end of the next day, the attack ended in an American victory. The St. Mihiel salient had been wiped out. This area had been occupied by the Germans since 1914 and in their hasty retreat they left behind vast stores of food and clothing as well as guns, ammunition, supplies and much equipment.

The American Army approached the famed Hindenburg Line and the Minnesota men were ordered into position near Pannes. The combined French and American Armies had organized another offensive aimed at the region surrounding the Meuse River and Argonne Forest.

On September 26 this Meuse-Argonne Offensive began. It was to last without interruption almost until the signing of the armistice six weeks later. By October 7 the 151st Field Artillery was in position, ready to take part in the assault of the Kriemhild sector of the Hindenburg Line which had been assigned to Gen. Pershing and his American Army.

Day after day of almost continuous firing by the batteries followed. After three days of the fiercest fighting which the Rainbow Division experienced during the war, the Cote de Chatillon, strong point on the Kriemhild Line, was taken. The regiment had fired 8,000 rounds of ammunition during this phase of the offensive.

Another assault was launched on November 1 at 3:30 a.m. with

an artillery barrage which has been called the heaviest in history. At 5:30 a.m. the infantry charged the German lines and the enemy was overwhelmed.

Although the men did not know it, the war was rapidly drawing to a close. The Germans were in full retreat with the Rainbow Division in pursuit. The objective was Sedan, near the Belgian border. Through cold, miserable weather the Minnesotans pushed after the retreating enemy through mud that mired their heavy, horse-drawn guns.

On November 7 the Rainbow Division attacked for the last time. The next day the men were relieved and fighting was over for them. On November 10 they marched into Harriecourt, flying their regimental colors for the first time in many months and there they were the next day when the armistice was signed. The regiment had lost 12 of its original 24 guns and 900 horses. For four months it had been in almost continuous action.

Of a total muster of 2,360 officers and men, there were 489 casualties; 11 were killed in action, 37 died of wounds, disease or accident and 441 were wounded or gassed in action. A total of 179 officers and men was decorated; and two received the Legion of Honor. Col. Leach received the Croix de Guerre with palm.

With the Rainbow Division, the 151st Field Artillery remained in Europe as part of the Army of Occupation until April 1919. In May, the men returned to Minnesota and a tumultuous welcome. There remained 890 men to be mustered out. Without doubt, the 151st Field Artillery was worthy of ranking with the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment of the Civil War.

Although the other Minnesota National Guard regiments had hoped also to be sent overseas intact, it was their lot to spend months drilling and training in the sand of New Mexico and then to be split up and used as replacements for other units in the United States and overseas.

It will be remembered that the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment had been mustered into federal service in March, 1917, to guard strategic points in Minnesota.

The Second and Third Minnesota Infantry Regiments and the Minnesota Field Hospital Companies (new units organized in May) were mobilized July 15.

Two additional regiments, the Fourth Minnesota Infantry and the Second Minnesota Artillery were organized that spring but never were drafted into federal service. The Fourth Regiment subsequently was used by the state as part of the Minnesota Home Guard and the Second Artillery Regiment eventually was



151st Field Artillery Regiment crosses the German frontier at Echternach. Date was December 3, 1918. The regiment remained in Europe on occupation duty after the armistice.

disbanded when efforts to be mustered into federal service proved futile.

Between August and October, the First, Second and Third Minnesota Infantry Regiments, the First Minnesota Ambulance Company and the First Minnesota Field Hospital Company were sent to Camp Cody, N. M., one of the 16 new National Guard camps being organized in the southern states. The camp site, however, left much to be desired and the location on a sandy desert plain reminded the veteran officers and men only too keenly of their months on the Mexican border.

The camp, however, had good railroad connections and a water supply. Far away to the north rose the barren Cook's Mountain Range while to the south lay the beautiful Florida Mountains.

Nights were chilly because of the altitude--4,300 feet above sea level. Nearby Deming was little more than a village. Frequent winds stirred up the sand to near-zero visibility and gave the name "Sandstorm Division" to the troops stationed there.

Protests were made in St. Paul and in Washington, and Rep. Harold Knutson questioned the wisdom of selecting such a site for the camp, but it was too late to make a change. The war department already had bought a military reservation covering

nearly 14,000 acres and built a camp capable of housing 40,000 soldiers.

The Minnesota National Guard units along with similar organizations from Iowa, Nebraska and North and South Dakota were formed into the 34th Division. Now for the first time, the federalized guard regiments lost their state identities and were renamed. This was contrary to their wishes, particularly for the men of the First, Second and Third Minnesota Regiments which could trace their lineage back to the Civil War.

However, there were weighty arguments in favor of departing from the old custom, and these did not concern the Guard regiments so much as they did the large numbers of drafted and enlisted men who were being registered for service. Organizing them into an army was difficult under the complex conditions of the 20th century. If the men were to be kept together by states, the war department would be hampered in organizing and training the troops.

Then there was another reason. In all wars some regiments have few casualties while others such as the First Minnesota at Gettysburg suffer great losses. Intermingling soldiers from all parts of the country would distribute these losses.

A compromise was worked out. There were to be three armies: the Regular Army, greatly enlarged and recruited up to full strength; the National Guard Army, composed of Guard units renamed and renumbered but retaining their present officers, and a new National Army, largest of all and composed of draftees.

In practice, however, there were so many transfers of men among the regiments and divisions that the lines separating these groups soon were erased. Indeed, the entire personnel of a regiment often was changed. Some of these transfers were dictated by military necessity but others resulted from the opinion, in some quarters, that military discipline would be improved if the officers had not previously known their men.

At Camp Cody, brigade headquarters became the headquarters of the 68th Brigade with Brig. Gen. Frederick C. Resche in command. The First Minnesota Infantry Regiment became the 135th Infantry Regiment. Erle D. Luce was colonel and 1,896 officers and men were enrolled. The Second Minnesota became the 136th Infantry Regiment with Col. William T. Mollison in command and 1,890 officers and men enrolled. The Third Minnesota was redesignated the 125th Field Artillery with Col. Hubert V. Eva as commander and 1,846 officers and men.

Since artillery regiments were smaller than infantry regiments,

the surplus men from the old Third Regiment and a group of men from the First South Dakota Cavalry Regiment were used to enlarge the 136th Regiment.

The First Minnesota Ambulance Company became the 135th Ambulance Company with Capt. Olof I. Sohlberg in command, and the First Minnesota Field Hospital Company became the 135th Field Hospital Company of the 109th Sanitary Train. Maj. Willmar C. Rutherford was commander. Lastly, the Machine Gun Company of the Third Minnesota Infantry became part of the new 125th Machine Gun Battalion.

Commander of the 34th Division was Maj. Gen. Augustus P. Blocksom. After his retirement, he was succeeded by Brig. Gen. Frank C. Mauldin and then Brig. Gen. John A. Johnston.

The 34th Division remained at Camp Cody for almost a year, from October, 1917, to late August, 1918. The monotony of days and weeks passed in drill was relieved somewhat by independent organizations which ministered to the men's needs. Of course there was a newspaper, the Camp Cody Bulletin, and the American Library Association distributed more than 5,000 books a month from their Camp Cody center.

Gov. J. A. A. Burnquist, Attorney General Lyndon A. Smith and Adjutant General Walter F. Rhinow visited camp to see what they could do to improve conditions. The Red Cross, YMCA and Knights of Columbus all set up huts or centers and the Jewish Welfare Board, Salvation Army and Christian Science Welfare Committee maintained contacts with the men.

There also was a secretary who looked after the needs of the Indians who were members of the various regiments. Most of these men had arrived with the South Dakota National Guard and many were descendants of the Sioux who had been driven from Minnesota after the Sioux War of 1862.

Gifts from Masonic lodges in northern Minnesota provided for a large recreation hall and an old reservoir was transformed into a stadium. A Liberty theater was built at camp and the YMCA maintained a hostess house where women relatives and friends could be entertained while visiting camp.

In May, 1918, 5,600 men were taken out of the 34th Division and sent east as replacements, to the intense disappointment of the commanding officers at the camp who had hoped that the entire division would be sent to France with the original state regiments largely intact. The state governors protested without success.

In June, 6,000 more men were taken out as replacements, leaving an average of only 16 men in the infantry companies.

Then, some 16,000 draftees arrived from various states, chiefly New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma. From this time on, the 34th Division no longer could be regarded as a Minnesota organization.

Through that year in camp, the men had been hoping for action and finally, in the middle of August, 1918, the division was ordered to Camp Dix, N. J., where it remained several weeks before leaving for France. The division arrived in late October, too late to see action.

While the 34th Division was drilling at Camp Cody, the new army of men who had been drafted or had enlisted was being organized and trained. After the passage of the Selective Service Act on May 18, 1917, several months passed before the draft boards had classified all registrants into the five classes and it was not until much later that all men in the 18-to-20 and 32-to-45 age groups were registered.

This last registration, however, was merely for the collection of information since the war was approaching an end. After the armistice, draft boards continued to classify registrants although this work never was completed.

Enlistments continued for a while early in the war. It took time to set up the new system, and people seemed to feel it was more creditable to enlist than to be drafted. Finally enlistments were discontinued because they interfered with the proper use of manpower. Some men were enlisting who would have been more useful in industry and others were entering one service when more were needed in another.

In all, 542,564 Minnesota men registered for the draft; 146,803 were placed in Class I; 253,909 were deferred. The draft boards passed out of existence before classifying 141,852 men.

Of the 118,497 Minnesotans who marched away to war, 39,144 were enlistees or members of National Guard regiments and 79,383 were draftees. No one in any of the deferred classes was called for service. When the war ended, there were still more than 46,000 men in Class I who had not been called.

The men drafted from Minnesota and adjacent states were sent to Camp Dodge near Des Moines, Iowa. Efforts had been made to induce the government to locate this National Army camp at Fort Snelling. Twin Cities businessmen were disappointed when the efforts failed.

At Camp Dodge, the men were organized into the 88th Division with Maj. Gen. Edward H. Plummer in command. At first, several regiments were made up of men from the same area. The 352nd Infantry included men from northern Minnesota. The 337th Field



Map of the battlefields of northeastern France.

Artillery Regiment and the 351st Infantry Regiment consisted mostly of men from Minnesota and the 313th Engineers also had many from the state.

Before long, however, the men were shifted to other camps. In October 3,000 were sent to Camp Cody; 1,000 went to the 33rd Division at Camp Logan, Texas; 8,000 to the 87th Division at Camp Pike, Ark.; 1,600 left for aviation instruction; 7,000 were used to fill up engineer regiments; more than 5,000 left in the spring of 1918 for the 30th Division at Camp Sevier, S. C., the 33rd Division at Camp Logan and the 35th Division at Camp Mills, N. Y.

Thus in six months the 88th Division lost more than 40,000 men, but so great was the constant influx of draftees that the division still had about 35,000 men in training.

After June, 1918, the men began to look forward to service in France. Their orders came in late July and they arrived at the front late in September where they were stationed in Haute-Alsace. During the six weeks preceding the armistice, the division saw considerable action. In fact, all action in which the American troops took part was confined for the most part to the summer and fall of 1918.

One of the great needs of the army had been for more officers. During the pre-war years, the University of Minnesota, along with many other colleges and universities throughout the country, had maintained a military department and a cadet corps. Annual encampments were held and many of the graduates received commissions in the army reserve.

With the outbreak of war, the war department set up a new program, a three-month training period for officer candidates conducted at 13 camps throughout the country. One of the camps was located at Fort Snelling and candidates came there from Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas and Nebraska. Enrollment was limited to 2,500.

The first graduation came in August with a class of 1,551; 650 of them were from Minnesota and of these nearly half were from Minneapolis. The second class graduated in November with 971 commissioned officers.

Almost as important for this modern army as its officers were the highly skilled men such as radio operators, mechanics, printers, electricians, bakers, cooks, radio operators. The supply was limited and many of these would have to be trained.

Dunwoody Institute, headed by Dr. Charles A. Prosser, became a military training center, and during the summer of 1917 helped

organize the 309th Field Battalion, Signal Corps. The school also produced bakers for the Quartermaster Corps.

During the same summer, Dunwoody came to be called the Naval Training School. With the help of Lt. Cdr. Willson, the institute trained 300 sailors from the Great Lakes, Ill., Naval Training Station. In all, during the war, some 4,000 navy and marine personnel were trained as naval ignition men, copper-smiths, machinists, metalworkers, blacksmiths, vulcanizers, gas welders, carpenters, radio men, and photographers.

Working with the aviation groups, Dunwoody also trained more than 4,000 airplane mechanics.

In late summer of 1918, careful observers were aware that the war was swiftly approaching its end. However, the war department was planning for a long conflict. To insure an adequate supply of college-trained officers, the Students' Army Training Corps was set up in colleges and universities throughout the country for the fall of 1918.

The men would attend classes and receive military training at the same time.

Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas, and Nebraska fell within the eighth region into which the country was divided for this work and 48 schools co-operated. Some of the larger universities had naval and marine as well as army programs. The University of Minnesota, Dunwoody, Hamline, Carleton, Macalester, St. Olaf, Gustavus Adolphus and St. Thomas College all took part.

The program included 11 hours a week of military drill and theory and nine hours devoted to war issues, as well as electives in English, foreign languages, mathematics, accounting, drawing, science, social science and surveying. The student also had to choose one of the main branches of military service.

The complex program scarcely had started when the war ended. Although co-operation between army officers and civilian educators had not been good, all officials would have been interested in seeing the program continued for six months to determine how successful it would have been. However, the program was discontinued in November.

In the absence of National Guard units on federal duty, a Minnesota Home Guard was organized in April of 1917. The Fourth Minnesota Infantry Regiment formed part of the Home Guard along with other groups which had been organized by local leaders to protect lives and property from spies, saboteurs and those groups opposed to the war. These military groups all became part of the Minnesota Public Safety Commission which had organ-

ized the Home Guard. The Citizens' Training Corps appeared in Duluth and the Civilian Authority in St. Paul. These engaged in military drill and elected officers but were entirely private.

The Home Guard was drawn from units not likely to be called for regular military service. Eventually it consisted of 23 battalions and more than 8,000 officers and men. A Fifth and Sixth Infantry Regiment also had been organized and, with the Fourth, mounted guard over mines, ore docks, factories, bridges and other strategic points.

During the war years the Home Guard was called to duty twice. In August of 1918, a tornado devastated Tyler, Minn., and 400 men were ordered to Tyler to assist in rescue operations. They were there for almost two weeks and one of their duties was to control the crowd of almost 70,000 sight-seers who came to the disaster scene.

The second call to duty came in October, 1918, when huge forest fires swept through St. Louis, Carlton and Aitkin counties. The troops helped fight the flames, evacuate families and rescue the injured. In one area, more than 300 persons were evacuated. A total of 2,700 men of the Home Guard was on duty for two weeks.

Among units serving during both disasters was the Motor Corps of the Home Guard organized by a Minneapolis automobile dealer, Winfield R. Stephens, as major. The corps provided rapid transportation in emergencies.

Its first real duty, according to the 1917-1918 report of the adjutant general, W. F. Rhinow, was during the Tyler disaster.

"Driving over roads that in some places were almost impassable as the result of the storm, a 'train' of motor cars roared their way along the roads from the Twin Cities to the stricken village bearing medical supplies, equipment and other sorely needed articles."

During the forest fires, the report continues, corps members drove their cars over roads that were on fire, forded streams where bridges had been burned out and hurdled places where culverts had been. Smoke often was so thick that corps members had to lie along the running boards of each of the cars to guide them along the roads.

"Location and transportation of the dead and injured was left to the Motor Corps and members of the Home Guard.... Tiny infants as well as the aged were tenderly carried to luxurious touring cars for transportation to the nearest military headquarters..," Rhinow reported.

The Corps originally was a Minneapolis organization, but

units soon were organized in other cities. Membership consisted of 143 officers and 2,400 men.

The Minnesota Commission of Public Safety which had organized the Home Guard had been authorized by the legislature to secure a united war effort among Minnesotans. As in all wars, there were those who questioned the wisdom--or necessity--for America's entering the war. Much of New England opposed the War of 1812 and many in the North were against the War of 1846 with Mexico. During the Civil War, there were many Northerners who, though they did not wish to see the Union dissolved, felt there was much to be said in favor of the Southern cause. They were called Copperheads and Lincoln suppressed them during the 1860s.

During the Sioux War, the Indians had many sympathizers in the eastern states and in 1898 there were those who thought a war with Spain was unnecessary.

So, during World War I, the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety was charged with securing a united war effort among Minnesotans and to use all means to protect public property and preserve order. They regulated or closed pool halls, dance halls, and saloons wherever there seemed to be interference with military efficiency.

One such raid on four saloons in Blooming Prairie is described by Gen. Rhinow in his report. The saloons had repeatedly violated an order of the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety regarding closing time. Finally, on July 1, 1918, Gov. Burnquist ordered Gen. Rhinow and a detail of troops to close up the saloons.

".....Eight motor cars furnished by the St. Paul Battalion, Motor Corps, Minnesota Home Guard, left the state capitol loaded with soldiers bound for Blooming Prairie. The run was made at a high rate of speed over good roads by way of Faribault and Owatonna.

"Upon arrival three of the four saloons were operating but two expressed willingness to close immediately. The third saloon owner announced with much vehemence that he would remain open until he was closed. He was closed.

".....Citizens of Blooming Prairie expressed their deep gratification at the closing order. In the evidence presented to the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety, it is understood, excessive drinking was materially hampering cultivation of the crops, and intoxicated 'joy-riders' made the public highways a menace to other people."

The Commission also operated as a center of information con-

cerning the war. An agent was appointed in every county to report overt acts which might hinder the war effort. The Commission used its authority to prosecute persons who spoke or worked against the war program. These included some German-American groups, Industrial Workers of the World, the Non-partisan League and some socialist and labor groups.

A newspaper editor was convicted of discouraging enlistments, questioning the security of Liberty bonds and of encouraging farmers to join the Non-partisan League in the hope their sons would be exempted from the draft.

The National Protective League, a sort of private detective organization led by Charles G. Davis of Minneapolis, undertook to expose all who violated sundry war regulations, such as housewives who used too much wheat or sugar; who did not make bread with rye, barley or potato flour; or people who did not buy Liberty bonds--or did not buy as many as the League felt they should. The League claimed 250,000 members but was not highly organized outside of the Twin Cities.

The League also sought out "slackers." In Minnesota, as in other sections of the country, there was opposition to compulsory military service just as there had been opposition to the war. This opposition came from some residents of German or Austrian birth or descent, from Socialist Party members and from some labor groups who felt American entrance into the war had been brought about by financial or industrial groups whose interests were tied to the military success of Great Britain and France.

Some students of world affairs doubted the wisdom of our entering the war and sending an army to Europe. Others believed the draft was not desirable in a democratic society.

But these qualms, voiced mainly by men beyond the age limit for military service, did not seem to be shared by the young men. With few exceptions, they came forward to register and to serve.

The draft boards had problems, but no more than those faced by military authorities in other wars. There undoubtedly were "slackers," persons of the right age who failed to register for the draft. Some overly-imaginative persons thought there were "slackers" by the thousands, and the Minnesota Protective League actually raided Minneapolis' Gateway district several times, hoping to locate "slackers" hiding among the unemployed, homeless or migratory laborers who gathered there. The raids were unproductive.

How many "slackers" there were is a matter of guesswork, but certainly they were not an important factor.

Then there was the "delinquent," a man who had registered but failed to return his questionnaire or show up for his physical

examination. The draft boards had hundreds of names on their lists of delinquents but most of these proved to be men who had enlisted without telling the board, who had moved away, who were in hospitals or who had died.

A "deserter" was a man who had met all requirements of the draft board and been certified for service but who had disappeared. There were 10,803 reported desertions, but nearly half of these reports turned out to be false.

Draft boards had great difficulty keeping records up to date, and many registrants were not aware they were to keep the boards informed of their whereabouts.

There probably were 5,516 deserters. Of these, 1,859 were arrested and returned to the army. No one knows what became of the remaining 3,428 or if they really were deserters. However, the percentage of deserters in World War I was much smaller than during the Civil War and the proportion of Minnesotans who deserted was far less than it was throughout the country.

The first World War which, for America, lasted only 19 months involved 118,497 men from Minnesota. Of these, 104,416 served in the army, 11,236 in the navy and 2,845 in the marine corps.

Many of the Minnesota navy recruits trained at Great Lakes Naval Training Station near Chicago and eventually were distributed among the many ships operating in the Atlantic and other waters and also among naval stations at home.

Marine recruits were sent to Parris Island, S. C. They fought on the battlefields of France but also did duty in Cuba, Haiti and other stations. The Sixth Marine Regiment contained a large number of students from the University of Minnesota.

There were 1,432 Minnesotans killed in battle or fatally wounded. Of these, 1,319 were in the army, eight in the navy and 105 in the marine corps. Those who died of disease numbered 2,175, of which 2,024 were in the army, 137 in the navy and 14 in the marines.

Deaths from disease were much less frequent than during the Civil War, a testimony to the strides medical science had made in half a century.

One great advance was the development of a vaccine for typhoid fever, a major illness in all previous wars. Losses from disease would have been even less had it not been for the serious epidemic of influenza which swept the world during the late summer and fall of 1918.

Men from Minnesota formed about 2½ percent of the armed forces personnel during World War I and were for the most part

widely scattered. There was scarcely a division, a battalion, a regiment, a ship without some of them, but in a few places were they so numerous that a regiment could be called a Minnesota outfit.

When the war ended, the men came home to a tumultous welcome, to bands playing, flags flying, banquets, receptions, balls, and to a state that was proud of what they had done. Two men from Minnesota had received the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in action in France.

CHAPTER VI

PEACE - AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Little more than 20 short years separated the two great World Wars. The armistice proved to be just that--a truce, a lull in the fighting rather than a lasting peace.

Perhaps there has been no period in American history quite like the contrast between those two decades between wars..the boisterous, gilded Twenties and the dark depression-haunted Thirties. Both eras were characterized by disillusionment over the war and the nation's excursion into international politics and a desire to "think of America first," as Warren G. Harding expressed it.

However, the war had laid the groundwork for the formation of a balanced force of all arms. Although the size of the armed forces had been cut and the regulation of naval forces had resulted in the scrapping of uncompleted battleships, nevertheless the building of this force went on.

When the World War I doughboys came marching home, their mustering-out wiped out the National Guard in Minnesota.

The Guard regiments which had been ordered into federal service could not legally be returned to the service of the state. Clearly, reorganization was in order.

Two organizations formed during the war as part of the Minnesota Home Guard now were reorganized to conform to National Guard standards. They originally were mustered as the Fifth and Sixth Minnesota Infantry Regiments. A few years later they were numerically redesignated the 205th and 206th regiments respectively. The Fourth Minnesota Infantry Regiment, organized early in the war and used for guard duty in the state also was reorganized and converted into an artillery regiment, the 151st Field Artillery.

Through the efforts of its officers, the 135th Infantry--the old First Minnesota Infantry of Civil War fame--was reformed. By 1920 the Minnesota National Guard again had the three infantry regiments and one artillery regiment which had existed before the war, as well as a motor-drawn ambulance company.

That same year, congress enacted an Amended National Defense Act. This established a well-balanced peacetime army made up of the regular army, the National Guard and the Organized Reserve. The act clearly defined the strength and function of each in time of peace. Guard strength was set at 435,000 and later reduced to 250,000.

The men were paid for field training and armory drills. The federal government furnished arms, uniforms and equipment. Provisions were made for attendance at service schools by both officers and men and the National Guard was represented on the war department's general staff. Within the war department, a separate bureau, headed by a Guard officer, was set up to administer National Guard affairs.

The Guard grew rapidly under the new law which firmly established the Guard as a federal force while still providing for state control. By 1924 there were 5,500 officers and men, the 125th Field Artillery was re-established and 109th Aero Squadron had been formed in addition to brigade headquarters and headquarters units.

All elements of the Minnesota National Guard except the 205th and 206th Infantry, remained part of the 34th Division, along with units from Iowa and North and South Dakota.

Formation of the 109th Aero or Observation Squadron in 1921, the first National Guard air unit in the nation to be federally recognized, marked the beginning of Minnesota's Air National Guard. First commander was Capt. Ray S. Miller, a World War I veteran and St. Paul aviation pioneer who eventually became a brigadier general.

The old Curtiss airport north of the state fairgrounds was the squadron's first air field and the planes were the open cockpit "Flying Jennies." The use of planes to fight northern Minnesota's devastating forest fires soon won popular support for the squadron.

Later the squadron moved its home base to an old race track on the outskirts of south Minneapolis. The space inside the track made a fine landing field. Today that first field is part of Wold-Chamberlain Airport.

In 1931 in a mass flight of 150 planes, the squadron moved to a new home base at Holman Field, St. Paul. The field was named for "Speed" Holman, an early member of the squadron.

In the meantime, other groups were being organized, most of them members of the Organized Reserve. Soon after the war the Minnesota Naval Militia and the United States Naval Reserve were reorganized with headquarters again in Duluth and bat-

talions in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Capt. Guy A. Eaton was commanding officer until 1925. He had served since 1903.

All naval divisions were again given an annual two-week training period with an occasional trip to the east coast for sea duty with the Atlantic Fleet.

For a few years, the Naval Militia used the USS Essex, a wooden screw steamer commissioned in 1876, which was on duty in the Ninth Naval District (including Minnesota) from 1917-1926. The Essex was, however, largely a station ship.

In 1922, the USS Gopher, the Naval Militia's old training ship, was replaced by the USS Paducah, a 174-foot gunboat. She had been launched in 1904 and served in Atlantic and Caribbean waters. Capt. A. O. Robideaux, USNR, Seventh Naval Area commander, and a crew of Minnesota officers and men, sailed her from the navy yard at Portsmouth, N. H., to Duluth in June of that year. In the late 1920s, the Paducah was converted from a coal to an oil-burning vessel.

Capt. Robideaux, who served with the naval reserve for many years, retired as a rear admiral.

Until November, 1940, the Paducah served the state well. In 1936, while on a training cruise, she was ordered to Isle Royale in Lake Superior to help fight a forest fire.

"The officers and crew really turned-to on this trip and the Paducah made better speed than on her trial trip," one veteran recalled. "The slack really came out of the crew. They had a real job to do and got at it. They got some old obsolete radio equipment together and set up a station.

"We picked up the CCC boys at Houghton with all their gear and took them to Isle Royale. Anchored in Siskawit Bay and acted as a supply and communication base. The Paducah received several 'well-dones' for that job. But it was mad-house for the paymaster.

"We did get some good fishing up there, however."

It was thought that the ship might have to be used to evacuate fire-fighters and civilians from the island but that was not necessary.

The Naval Air Reserve was organized in 1924. The old Naval Reserve Armory on Lake Calhoun was the headquarters and navy pilots trained at fields around the Twin Cities and at Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois.

First hangar to be erected was commissioned in 1928 at Wold-Chamberlain and classed as a Naval Reserve Aviation base. Lt. Frank E. Weld, who had set up the reserve, was first com-

manding officer. There were two divisions, a squadron and 16 planes. Pilot training consisted of a year of courses at the University of Minnesota, 30 days' training at Great Lakes and 200 hours of flying at the United States Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.

The men flew two-place biplanes. The Minneapolis group was the only naval air unit between Boston and Seattle. Station-keeper during the middle 1930s consisted of 10 men. In those days most of what now is the present base consisted of potato fields and rolling hills. During this period the N3N airplane, best known of the "yellow perils," was added to the squadrons.

In 1931 the marine corps joined in the program with the organization of a reserve aviation squadron at Wold-Chamberlain field. This was not the first appearance of marine reservists in Minnesota, however. Shortly after the end of World War I, the Minnesota Marine Club had asked marine headquarters to set up a reserve company in St. Paul.

In 1928 the 314th company was formed, but it was short-lived. In spite of vigorous recruiting, the company was disbanded three years later.

Veterans' groups were being organized during these years, but these, too, were not the first by any means. Veteran "boys in blue" had formed the Grand Army of the Republic in Minnesota in 1886. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, organized in 1902 in Minnesota, was an outgrowth of the Spanish-American War. At first only those veterans who actually had served overseas during the war were eligible. Later, veterans of all foreign campaigns and wars were included.

On November 10, 1919, at a meeting in Minneapolis, the American Legion was formed.

In 1921, the United States Third Infantry Regiment came back to Fort Snelling after walking the last 938 miles of the way, longest hike on record for an infantry regiment. This regular army regiment which has figured so often in Minnesota's military history, had been at Camp Perry, Ohio, for the annual national rifle matches.

The regiment had 15 officers, 206 enlisted men, 37 horses, 110 mules and 26 wagons. Setting out on September 26 and marching through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, they arrived at Fort Snelling November 17 in a snowstorm. They had averaged 15 to 20 miles a day.

The Third Regiment was older than the state in which it was stationed for so long. The regiment dates back to 1784 when it was the First American Regiment.

In the 1840s during the Mexican War, Gen. Winfield Scott nicknamed the regiment the "Old Guard." In command at one time was Col. Henry Leavenworth who founded Fort Snelling.

As part of the Army of the Potomac, the Third Regiment fought in every battle that army engaged in during the Civil War. When Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, the "Old Guard" was there.

In 1888 the regiment was stationed permanently at Fort Snelling, but 10 years later was sent south at the beginning of the war with Spain. It fought in the battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba then was returned to Fort Snelling. In October of 1898, a detachment of men from the Third was sent to Leech Lake where the skirmish with the Chippewa at Sugar Point took place.

The next year the regiment was sent to the Philippines where it served during the insurrection. Later it served in Alaska and at numerous other army posts before returning to Fort Snelling in 1921.

During the last 18 years of the Third's stay at Fort Snelling, the fort recaptured some of the gaiety and color of its early years. Known among army men as one of the best and most sought-after posts in the United States because of its location between two cities, the fort became something of a social and civic center.

Those years are remembered with nostalgia by many. Daily guard mounts and weekly parade ceremonies drew crowds as did polo games on Sunday afternoons.

Then there was "Whiskey," a "veteran" of service in the Philippines--a performing horse belonging to Battery F, 14th Field Artillery which, with the Seventh Tank Company, also was stationed at the fort.

"Whiskey" made an appearance at the Minnesota State Fair, performed all over the country, lived to be 32--ripe old age for a horse--and died in 1943.

These were busy years for the Minnesota National Guard. Guardsmen were called to duty by the governor on at least 30 occasions during the years between the two wars. They fought forest fires and evacuated families, they aided in rescue operations after tornadoes, and they stood guard twice during visits by President Roosevelt to the Twin Cities.

Sometimes during the years of economic hardship and labor unrest, it was the Guardsmen's difficult task to help civilian authorities maintain peace and order in strife-ridden Minnesota cities.

Most serious civil disturbance was the Minneapolis truck drivers strikes of 1934 which at one point developed into a minor

war. In May of that year, two businessmen acting as special deputies were killed during fighting in the streets and 2,500 Guardsmen were called to duty by Gov. Floyd B. Olson. In July and August, 3,500 Guardsmen were called into service.

Although Gov. Olson mobilized the forces during the strike in May, a settlement was reached and the troops were not needed.

The agreement reached in May between truck owners and drivers proved only a truce, not a lasting settlement. In July virtual civil war erupted. On July 16 the truck drivers voted to strike again. As he had done in May, Minneapolis Police Chief Mike Johannes again began to build up his force with special armed deputies.

The truck drivers armed themselves as best they could. As in May, they stationed themselves on highways leading into Minneapolis and turned back all trucks attempting to enter the city except those of farmers carrying products for market. The strikers also refused to permit any trucks to move in Minneapolis' market area west of Hennepin avenue.

On Friday, July 20--"Bloody Friday"--Johannes' police fired on a group of unarmed strikers who were trying to prevent them from moving a truck. Two strikers were killed and 67 persons wounded, including 13 bystanders.

Five days later, when an agreement accepted by the truck drivers union was turned down by the employers, Gov. Olson proclaimed martial law. His purpose was to move necessary supplies into the city and to use troops as a buffer between employer and employee so as to prevent further bloodshed.

Under martial law no trucks were allowed to move without a military permit. Permits were granted only to trucks moving fruit, milk and other food. Picketing of trucks was not allowed. No parking was permitted in downtown Minneapolis, no liquor was served after 9 p.m. and dance halls and night clubs were ordered to close after midnight.

National Guard troops were ordered to raid both strike headquarters, and the headquarters of the Citizens' Alliance, the employers' group which opposed the strikers. Each side bitterly denounced the governor and his martial law.

Agreement finally was reached August 21 between truck owners and drivers. The strike had lasted more than a month, but the Guard, acting under orders from Gov. Olson, had helped pave the way for a settlement.

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Each National Guard unit was required to take part in 15 days

of summer field training. Throughout the 1920s, the men continued to train at Camp Lakeview in Lake City but the Guard rapidly was outgrowing its 300 acre camp site on which no more than a single regiment could camp at one time. Some of the training had to be done at Fort Snelling although the Citizens Military Training Corps and the various elements of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps also used the fort and the Third United States Infantry was stationed there.

In 1931 Minnesota's legislature appropriated \$300,000 for the purchase of land and the beginning of construction of Camp Ripley, a new 12,000-acre military reservation north of Little Falls.

The ground had historic associations for Minnesotans because it was the site of old Fort Ripley, the frontier post founded in 1849 to protect the Winnebago Indians who briefly had been settled in the area as a "buffer" state between the warring Chippewa and Sioux. Of course the fort also offered protection to all inhabitants of the area. The site had been selected by Brig. Gen. George M. Brooks, commandant of the Department of the West with headquarters at St. Louis, Mo., following an exploration of the area with a squadron of dragoons and several staff officers in November, 1848.

Construction of the fort was supervised by Capt. Napoleon J. T. Dana of the army quartermaster corps who later served with distinction in the Civil War. The men labored through the winter of 1848-49, setting up a portable sawmill, cutting timber and building temporary quarters.

In the spring Company A of the Sixth Infantry stationed at Fort Snelling was moved to the new site. First commandant was Capt. John B. S. Todd. The new post first was named Fort Gaines, in honor of Brig. Gen. Edmund P. Gaines. Later, after his name was given to a new fort on Mobile Bay, the Minnesota post was renamed Fort Ripley in honor of Gen. James W. Ripley, a distinguished officer of the War of 1812.

The completed fort stood on a plateau on the west bank of the Mississippi in the center of the mile-square military reservation. The timber had been cleared away from the fort on all sides for several hundred yards, and the buildings were enclosed on three sides with a 10-foot stockade, each side 450 feet long. The east side facing the river was left open. There were two log block-houses, one in the southeastern corner and the other in the northwestern corner of the square. A ferry connected the fort with the wagon road to St. Paul on the east side of the river.

Inside the stockade were barracks occupying the west side of the parade, and officers' quarters, sutler's store, chapel and hospital on the remaining two sides.

All buildings were frame, of logs and clapboard, except for the magazine which was stone and located in the northwest corner of the fort.

The troops at Fort Ripley have been described as the "North-west Mounted Police" of the territory. Although they took part in no major campaigns against the Indians, they kept order, quenched threatening revolts and investigated breaches of the law and their presence served to hasten the settlement of much of the northern and northwestern part of the Minnesota Territory.

The restraining effect of the fort was demonstrated in 1857 after orders came to abandon the post and sell the land. Within weeks the Chippewa threatened to destroy the Rev. J. Lloyd Breck's mission at Leech Lake. Next, three Indians who had murdered a white man were taken from the sheriff and lynched by a white posse. Their tribesmen in turn threatened revenge.

It was not difficult to conclude that the fort should remain open, and trouble subsided upon the arrival of a small detachment from Fort Ridgely.

Life at Fort Ripley was much like that at other frontier posts. Payday, to the chaplain's sorrow, was followed by gambling and drinking, but the paymaster's visits were three to six months apart. Penalty for desertion was severe--50 lashes and a drumming out of the service.

"Execution of the sentence was not without benevolence," wrote Maj. Gen. J. E. Nelson, Minnesota's present adjutant general, in a history of the fort. "We find this entry following comments on the lashing and drumming of one of the deserters:

" 'Gave Quinlan a dollar, as each of the officers did. So also did the privates provide for his necessities very liberally'. "

Most of the officers and many of the men were married so there were teas, dinners and dances. Traders, settlers, Indian chiefs, Indian agents and territorial and state officials visited the garrison.

Not until 1877 was the fort finally abandoned and the last troops withdrawn. Some of the buildings were destroyed by a prairie fire and the rest were hauled away by settlers or allowed to deteriorate until they collapsed. Today only the old stone magazine remains as a monument to the frontier post--that and the name given to the modern camp surrounding the area which once belonged to the little fort.

In 1933, the National Guard troops held their first summer en-

campment at Camp Ripley. The Third United States Infantry also used it for summer training.

The same year brought two other events important in Minnesota's military affairs. The legislature created the Minnesota State Armory Building Commission which built five armories throughout the state during the years before the outbreak of World War II. Sixteen new armories had been built between 1911 and World War I and 27 more between 1921 and 1934.

Among the new buildings was the Minneapolis Armory, built to replace the old Kenwood Armory, opposite the Minneapolis Parade, which was condemned because the foundation had begun to settle. The displaced Minneapolis units of the National Guard, including the 135th Infantry Regiment and the 151st Field Artillery, drilled for a time in an Eagles hall, a garage and a ballroom.

The second event was the creation by the federal government of a new type of "civilian" army, the CCC or Civilian Conservation Corps. During those depression years, the CCC gave jobs to young men between the ages of 17 and 25 in state and national forests and parks.

At Fort Snelling, World War I buildings were opened to induct men from the midwest area and send them out to the camps, located for the most part in the northern part of Minnesota. There they built trails, thinned timber, fought forest fires. Many of the roadside picnic areas, the new stands of timber, the portage trails which delight vacationers today are the work of the CCC. Their camps were commanded by reserve officers called to active duty.

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As the United States--and Minnesota with her--struggled to recover from the depression, eyes also were turned overseas where an Austrian named Adolf Hitler had seized power in Germany and established an "axis" with his counterpart, the Italian dictator Mussolini.

By 1938, war was inevitable. Europe, except for Germany which had been rapidly building a powerful war machine, was unprepared. And so in the fall of that year, Minnesota high school students, with the rest of the world, huddled about classroom radios to follow the negotiation of the "peace in our time" Munich pact between England and France and Germany and Italy. Czechoslovakia was dismembered.

In March of 1939, Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia as he had invaded and annexed Austria a year before. England and France

hastened to rearm. In August, Hitler signed a non-aggression pact with Russia and on September 1 his troops invaded the Polish Corridor.

On September 3 Great Britain and France, in fulfillment of their guarantee of Poland's freedom, declared war on Germany and the second World War had begun.

One by one, the smaller countries of Europe fell to Hitler's armies--Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg. When France fell in June of 1940, Great Britain stood virtually alone and the United States at once began to arm.

The American government had hoped for neutrality. Isolationists, some of whom were prominent Minnesotans, urged a "hand's off" policy. The United States prepared to give Britain all help short of war. She traded 50 over-age destroyers for British bases in the new world and, through the lend-lease bill of 1941, provided supplies for Britain. That year the United States, with the consent of Greenland and Iceland, former Danish possessions, established advance sea and air bases on those North Atlantic islands.

The United States was far better prepared for war than she had been on the eve of World War I. For a decade President Roosevelt had been building up the navy. Though the size of the regular army was small, it was supplemented by National Guard and Organized Reserve units which were well-organized and trained.

In September of 1940, congress followed the procedure tested during World War I and passed the selective service act. Numbers drawn from a large glass bowl determined in what order men would be called into service.

That fall these selectees were mustered into service and reservists and National Guardsmen were gradually called up. Students enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and members of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) at the University of Minnesota were called into service for a year.

A marine reserve ground unit, the 18th Infantry Battalion which had been activated at St. Paul in September, 1939, was mobilized in November of 1940. It carried 18 officers and some 400 enlisted men on its rolls. Sent to Camp Elliott, Calif., for training, the battalion was absorbed into the Sixth Marine Regiment which was deployed in the defense of Iceland in May of 1941. Later the battalion fought at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian as part of the Second Marine Division.

Early in 1940, the 92nd Infantry Brigade, consisting of the 205th and 206th infantry regiments, had been reorganized into the 101st Anti-aircraft brigade which consisted of three AAA regiments, designated the 215th, 216th and 217th AAA regiments.

Also called up during the fall and winter of 1940-41 were the naval and marine reserve aviation squadrons which had been training at the Wold-Chamberlain air base. The marine detachment was sent to North Island, San Diego, Calif., and eventually fought in the Pacific theater.

The navy training program at Wold-Chamberlain was rapidly expanded. Primary flight training began there in 1941 with 3,000 men. More land was added to the base, and a dozen outlying air fields also were used.

The air over Minnesota, particularly the Twin Cities, was filled with the navy's bright "yellow perils"--open cockpit biplanes. Students were assigned to live in private homes until quarters could be built. Buildings mushroomed all over the base.

In the meantime, Minnesota National Guard units were awaiting call into federal service. As early as October of 1940, the Guardsmen were alerted on nine separate occasions for induction into federal service. There was confusion in their personal lives for a great many of them. As in the first World War, the men closed their offices, resigned from jobs or dropped out of school.

Finally, on February 10, 1941, the real call came and the "citizen soldiers" began to report to their stations. With the National Guard of North and South Dakota and of Iowa, the Minnesota men still were part of the 34th Division, created during World War I. As the "Red Bull" division, they fought together through the long years of the war, at Kasserine Pass and Hill 609, at Salerno, the Volturno, Cassino and Anzio.

Inevitably in a conflict as great as the second World War, the battalions, regiments, divisions quickly lost whatever state identities they once had. As soon as units were committed to battle and suffered casualties, replacements, as in World War I, were sent in and these men came from all over the country.

An account of Minnesota's role in World War II would involve a history of the entire war, since there probably was not an air squadron, a ship, a coast guard or an army unit in which there were no Minnesotans. But there were highlights of this greatest of wars which did involve units which in the early days, at least, were made up principally of Minnesota men and these should be touched upon.

The Minnesota National Guard mustered 8,388 officers and



Courtesy United States Navy

USS Ward, destroyer manned by Naval Militia from Minnesota, which was credited with sinking the first Japanese vessel of World War II.

men when it was mobilized for active service in the winter of 1940-41. After mobilization, its strength was increased to 15,000. With other units of the 34th Division, the Minnesota troops moved south by truck and rail to Camp Claiborne, La., which had been selected as their training camp.

Minnesota's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Ellard A. Walsh, a veteran of World War I, was commander of the division until October of 1941, when Maj. Gen. Russell P. Hartle succeeded him.

Claiborne was still under construction. The grounds were covered with ankle-deep mud and the troops shivered in the unending rains and raw, penetrating winds. But training, nevertheless, began. By fall the Louisiana maneuvers, the greatest peacetime military exercises in the history of the country, took place between two great "armies" of a million men.

Mobilization of the Minnesota National Guard also had put the Minnesota Air National Guard's 109th Observation Squadron into active federal service. As the 109th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, the men flew 1,680 combat missions during the war.

All Naval Reserve units--the old Naval Militia--also were ordered to active duty. Strength of the Minnesota organization was 689 officers and men.



Minnesota National Guard Photo

These are the members of the gun crew of the USS Ward which is credited with firing the United States' first shot of World War II, sinking a Japanese submarine off Pearl Harbor immediately before the enemy attack. From left are J. S. Peick, St. Paul; C. W. Fenton, Forest Lake; Karl Lasch, St. Paul; H. P. Flanagan, St. Paul; R. H. Knapp, Bremerton, Wash.; R. B. Nolde, St. Paul; D. W. Gruening, Duluth; E. J. Bukrey, St. Paul, and A. A. Domagall, St. Paul. Behind them is the gun that fired the shot. During a changeover in armament a few months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the four-inch gun was removed from the Ward. The ship was sunk near the end of the war during the battle for the Philippines, but the gun was preserved, brought to Minnesota and set up as a monument on the state capitol grounds as part of the state's centennial celebration. The men gathered to attend dedication ceremonies there May 9, 1958.

For the most part, they were assigned to receiving ships on east and west coasts to be fitted as needed into crews of fighting ships.

But one Minnesota Naval Reserve Division was destined to fire the first shot of World War II in the defense of the United States.

Early on the morning of December 7, 1941, the destroyer USS Ward was on patrol off the channel entrance to Pearl Harbor. The Ward's crew was made up almost entirely of men from the 47th Naval Reserve Division of the 11th Battalion from St. Paul. Nine Minnesota men manned a four-inch gun mounted atop the galley deck house of the ship.

About 6 a.m., shortly before the Japanese attack, the Ward spotted a submarine and closed in for investigation. The submarine proved to be one of several midget two-man subs which the Japanese had launched in an effort to slip through the net guarding the harbor.

The Ward opened fire. The Minnesota crew scored a hit on the conning tower and the submarine sank. An hour later Japanese planes dropped their first bombs on Pearl Harbor. The naval gun of the USS Ward which sank this enemy submarine is now mounted on the Minnesota state capitol grounds as a perpetual monument to Minnesota fighting men of World War II.

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The day after the attack, young men eager to enlist formed long lines outside the recruiting stations. All thoughts of neutrality, of isolationism had vanished and, for the first time in its history, the country was united in a war effort. There arose no need for another American Protective League and no one suggested a Minnesota Commission of Public Safety.

The people were better educated and better informed than they had been during World War I. High school graduates had multiplied fourfold. There were more college graduates and fewer illiterates. Newspapers and press associations with representatives throughout the world had helped educate readers concerning the issues at stake.

As this new understanding and knowledge was reflected in the united attitude of the nation toward the war, so was it also seen in the men who were called to fight. There were many more men suited to command, and Minnesota men scored the highest of all in army intelligence tests.

The war began immediately for the men on the USS Ward, for the men at Pearl Harbor--many of them Minnesotans--and for those in the Philippines. In 1941, the 194th Tank Battalion had been mobilized and sent to Fort Lewis, Wash., for training. Late in December, the battalion, commanded by Col. Ernest B. Miller of Brainerd, was sent to the Philippines to help strengthen the islands against possible Japanese attack. There they were to play a distinguished and tragic role.

In this battalion was the 34th Tank Company, redesignated Company A of the 194th Tank Battalion, from Brainerd which helped cover the long delaying action, the retreat into Bataan and Corregidor. December 8 (December 7, United States' time), found the battalion in position on and around Clark Field near Manila with orders to repel any airborne infantry in the event of a

Japanese attack and the battalion was caught in the heavy bombing of the airfield a few hours after the attack of Pearl Harbor.

"From this time on," reads one report, "the battalion shuttled back and forth on Luzon between the North Luzon force and the South Luzon force, fighting the enemy and covering withdrawals into Bataan. In many instances there was nothing between the battalion and the Japs but thin air."

"One engagement on January 5 was a daylight withdrawal. The battalion had been ordered to cover the right flank where Japanese pressure had broken through while all units to the left withdrew through the left flank and across country."

The battalion was to hold this position until clearance had been given. Its next orders were to proceed south, establish a temporary line, hold it through the night, then retire to a new line in the rear.

About 2 a.m. the Japanese attacked. The report continues: "We had no infantry or other units other than one company of the 192nd Tank Battalion (National Guard) on the line with us. It was bright moonlight and the position chosen was one of the few places in the Philippines which afforded a good field of fire.

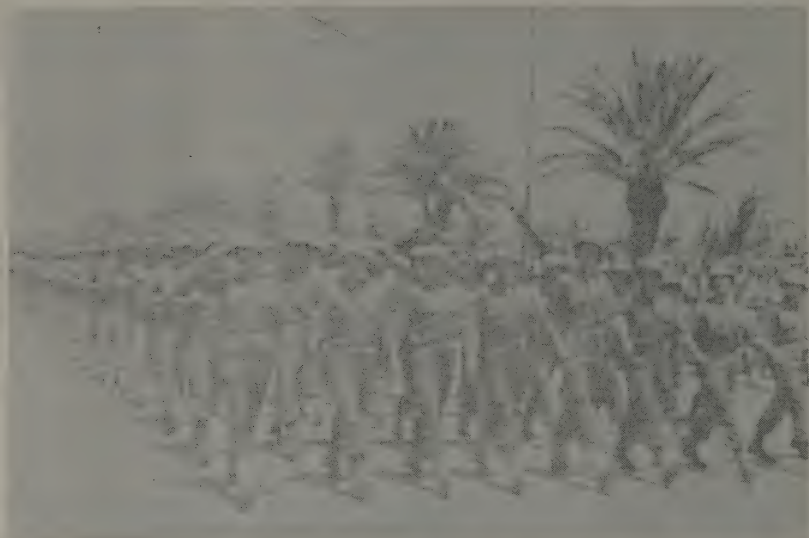
"The Japanese attacked across the open field in bright moonlight and started to use what we thought at first was gas. It proved to be smoke and almost immediately the wind shifted and blew the smoke back on the Japanese lines.

"On our left the Japs attacked in fairly open order. But toward the right they attacked in mass. All our guns were in operation and the slaughter was terrific despite the fact that there was no high explosion ammunition available in the Philippines for our 37-mm guns."

The tanks' machine guns carried a number of tracer bullets and some of these set fire to the grass 100 feet in front of a platoon leader's tank. Knowing that the fire would place the tanks in silhouette and also set them on fire, the platoon leader, Lt. W. A. Petree, climbed out of his tank and, in the face of enemy fire, stamped out the flames. He was mortally wounded, but not by enemy fire from in front. Petree was shot in the back by an enemy sniper who had infiltrated the lines.

After an hour of heavy fighting, the enemy retreated, leaving masses of dead and wounded.

The 194th Tank Battalion was the last unit to enter Bataan and it covered the last withdrawal on the night of January 6-7. It took part in the siege of Bataan and the defense of the peninsula's east coast.



Victory in North Africa is celebrated by a victory parade in Tunis, Tunisia, May 20, 1943. The 135th Infantry Regiment passes in review.

In the early morning hours of April 9, 1942, elements of the 194th together with elements of the 200th Coast Artillery (National Guard) fired the last shots at the Japanese as the general surrender order was being issued.

Taken prisoner, the men took part in the "death march" on Bataan. They were prisoners of war for three years and five months. Before the war ended 60 to 70 percent of them had died in prison camps.

Company A of the 194th Tank Battalion lost approximately two-thirds of its men, a heavy blow to the people of Brainerd. The company was cited by Gen. MacArthur for exceptionally meritorious service as part of his army's rear guard.

With the fall of the Philippines and other American outposts in the Pacific, the country rushed to strengthen its continental defenses. The 215th Coast Artillery were sent to the Aleutians and the 216th and 217th Coast Artillery to battle stations on the Pacific coast. All were units of the Minnesota National Guard.

At Camp Claiborne, the 34th Division had been placed on a "stand-by" basis immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Within a few weeks, the division, because of its performance on maneuvers and advanced state of training, was chosen to be the first American division to embark for Europe.



Famous Hill 609, key to the Germans' defense of northern Tunisia, finally was captured by men of the 34th Division on March 27, 1943.

In January, 1942, the division left for Fort Dix, N. J. memorable ever after, among the men, for its below-zero weather and tattered tents with no cots, lights or heat.

The first contingent, under Maj. Gen. Hartle and his chief of staff, Col. (now Maj. Gen.) Norman E. Hendrickson, sailed January 15 on the British transport, HMTS Strathaird. The men never forgot that voyage. The north Atlantic in winter is not a placid midwestern lake. The ship pitched and tossed, hundreds of men were seasick and the British fare of fish and mutton did nothing to help matters.

Elements of the 133rd Infantry Regiment and the 151st Field Artillery were in this first group to sail for Europe. In World War I the men of the 151st had sailed with only their clothes and a 45 calibre pistol because they were to be trained in the use of a foreign field piece, the French 75. In World War II they again sailed with only their clothes and a 45-calibre pistol to be trained in the use of the British field piece.

The ship docked at Belfast, North Ireland, January 26, and Pvt. William H. Henke of Hutchinson, Minn., was the first GI to step ashore.

The months in Ireland were spent in training and preparing for invasion. Late in October, 1942, the 34th Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Charles W. Ryder, took part in the three-pronged invasion of North Africa aimed at Casablanca, Oran and Algiers. Elements of the 34th were assigned to the assault on Algiers which surrendered after two days of fighting.

Gen. Ryder, who had commanded all forces landing at Algiers, helped conduct the delicate peace negotiations with the French, represented by Admiral Darlan and Gen. Juin. Though an armistice was signed, relations with the French remained strained.

In the meantime, France's Vichy government had permitted the German forces in North Africa to enter Tunisia and the battle was on for this important French protectorate.

Here the 34th Division was credited with capture of the famous Hill 609 (Djebel Tahent), a rugged mass of rock in this mountainous region which barred the Allied armies from the vital ports of Bizerte and Tunis, still in German hands.

Hill 609 dominated this area where the Germans had been entrenched for several months. They had fortified the area around Hill 609, their central fortress, and they had to be swept first from these surrounding hills. The enemy fought stubbornly and often had to be cleared from each fortified position by bayonets.

The attack on Djebel Tahent began at 5 a.m., April 29, with the Third Battalion of the 135th Infantry Regiment moving down from Hill 490 and across the valley to the base of 609 where it captured a small village. Then the division began the assault on the huge hill itself. The Germans hung on desperately but after two days of fighting under terrific fire, the men of the 34th finally captured the bastion which was the key to the German defense in that area.

With Hill 609 in American hands, the German defense line before Bizerte collapsed. On May 15, the enemy surrendered and the North African campaign was over.

While the 34th Division remained in North Africa to clean up the northern sector and salvage army supplies, Sicily fell to the Allies after 38 days of furious attack. The assault on Italy came next. Late in July, the 34th Division was sent to Oran for rigorous combat training.

The assault on Salerno followed. The attack was to be made by the 36th Division from Texas, followed by the 45th Division, the 34th Division and other elements of the Fifth Army.

Here the 151st Field Artillery distinguished itself. Attached to the 36th Division for this mission, the battalion loaded its batteries into landing craft and set off to relieve the infantry regiments of the 36th Division which were facing fierce opposition and were in danger of being pushed from their beachhead.

Throughout the day, artillery laid down protecting fire for the infantry and fought off attacks by German Mark IV tanks. The battalion was credited with saving the beachhead. Its guns had



Off the coast of Italy, the field artillery is moved ashore.

arrived just in time to beat off the first counter-attack by the German tanks.

The 34th Division was held in reserve during the Salerno assault but was thrown into action in crossing the Volturno, the swift-flowing mountain stream that separated the American Fifth Army from Field Marshall Albert Kesselring's German 10th Army. Across the river the Germans were entrenched in a mass of hills and mountains. Anticipating the attack, they had laid mines and placed artillery, mortars and machine guns in positions which would command river crossings.

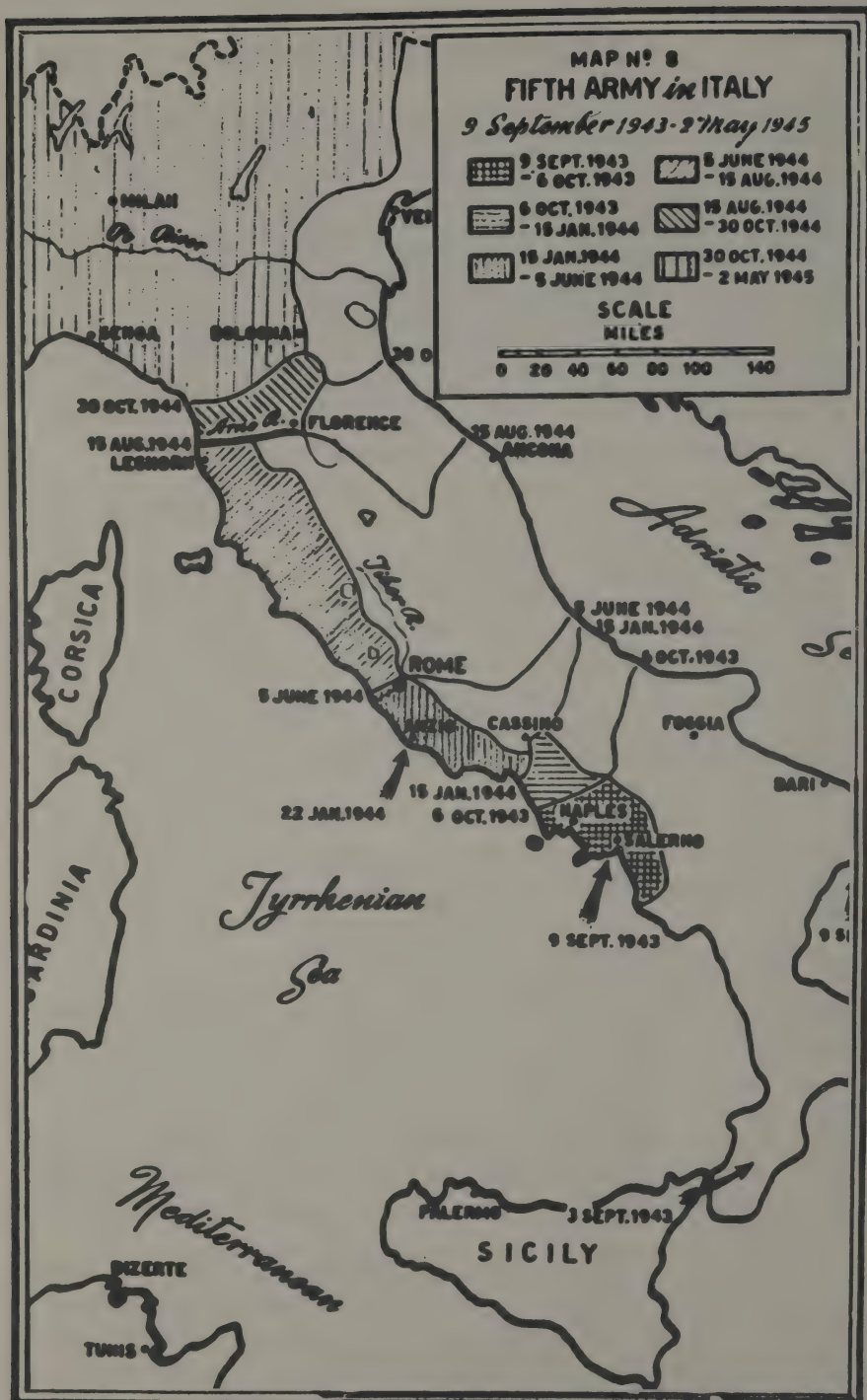
As part of the VIth Corps of the Fifth Army, the 34th Division was assigned to cross the Volturno and capture the area around the villages of San Giovanni and Caiazzo. It was October, and the river was swollen and turbulent. The troops had to wade through the cold torrent or cross in small boats.

Just what this first crossing of the Volturno was like for the 168th Infantry Combat Team is described by Lt. Col. John H. Hougen in his "Story of the Famous 34th Infantry Division."

"The skies had cleared, the moon arose and descended and and blackness engulfed the scene, leaving the outline of the hills beyond faintly silhouetted against the sky. At 0145 hours on the 13th of October, all division and supporting artillery joined in a terrific raking of the enemy positions on the opposite side of the river.

"At 0200 the barrage was lifted, followed by a series of concentrated fires designated to cover the crossing points of the two battalions. A cover of smoke was laid down by the attached 2nd Chemical Battalion. Zero hour had arrived.

".....Holding their guns high over their heads, the initial troops of the 1st Battalion moved quietly into the torrential



Map of Italy showing sectors in which the 34th Division fought.

waters, reaching the opposite bank and struggling up its steep, slippery sides. Immediately enemy mine fields were encountered, resulting in several casualties."

Enemy tactics consisted of stubborn resistance and orderly withdrawal, leaving small groups behind to harass the American troops. Almost a month of bitter fighting followed as the Americans pursued the German army. Two more crossings of the winding Volturno were necessary before the Fifth Army reached the German Winter Line, Kesselring's line of defense during the winter of 1943-44.

Now for the first time, the men who had suffered untold miseries in the cold, incessant rains with no opportunity to dry their clothing, were given bedrolls and served hot meals.

The assault on the Winter Line was a series of battles up one mountain and down another, as was true of the entire Italian campaign.

The battle for Monte Pantano, however, was one of the dramatic fights of the war. Monte Pantano anchored the northern end of the German line and on November 28 the 168th Infantry Regiment was ordered to take the hill.

On November 29 the men climbed the muddy, rocky slopes of the 1,600-foot hill and four days and nights of bloody battle followed. Attacks and counter-attacks were unceasing. On the night of November 30 the Germans advanced in seven assault waves. For five hours, fighting was hand-to-hand with the men packed so tightly it was difficult to distinguish German from American. The Americans fired point-blank as soon as they touched a rough German overcoat.

On December 1 it snowed and that night fog settled over the battleground, making it difficult again to distinguish friend from enemy. The men fought with hand grenades at 15 to 20 yards.

The terrain made the transport of supplies a problem. Mules could climb only two-thirds of the way to the top of the mountain. Sometimes evacuating a wounded man took four to six hours. The battalion surgeon often administered blood plasma at the scene of battle and once crawled through an enemy minefield, under fire, to reach the wounded.

Ammunition ran low. At one point the men threw rocks and "C" ration cans instead of hand grenades. But the German defense was crumbling, and by December 2 enemy resistance was wiped out. The fall of Monte Pantano eventually forced the Germans to abandon the Winter Line.

Now the 34th Division took part in the drive to the Rapido



On the snow-covered hills of northern Italy, men of Company C, First Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment, attend services January 25, 1945.

River, followed by the bitter six-weeks campaign at Cassino. Here the division lost thousands of men in the late winter of 1944. The battle for Cassino itself was a building-to-building fight. On February 15, Indian troops finally relieved the 135th and 168th regiments but when orders came for them to withdraw, hundreds of men were too exhausted to move down from the steep slopes of the monastery hill where they had been fighting. The 133rd was relieved by the New Zealand Corps after the bombing of the abbey several days later.

The 34th now moved to the Anzio beachhead where landings had been made early in January. The Allied forces had gradually enlarged their beachhead against bitter enemy resistance and two more months of fighting remained after the arrival of the 34th before the final breakthrough came early in May. This was the beginning of the drive on Rome. The men of the 135th entered that city on June 4. The Germans had withdrawn from Rome to form another defense line to the north.

Rome was the first European capital to fall to the Allied



Infantry and tanks of the 34th "Red Bull" Division enter Livorno, Italy, with other elements of the United States Fifth Army. Date is July 19, 1944.

forces. A few days later on June 6, 1944, the long-awaited invasion of France began with the landings on the Normandy beaches.

Almost a year of fighting still remained, however, before Germany finally surrendered, and the 34th Division spent those months fighting it out in Italy, in the drive on the Arno River, the push toward the Germans' Gothic and Apennine Lines and the final campaign in the Valley of the Po River.

The division's drive up the Po Valley was one of the boldest of the campaign. The men were here on May 2 when German forces in Italy surrendered. Six days later the war ended in Europe.

On September 27, 1945, the Red Bull Division started for home. The men sailed from Naples October 22, landed at Newport News, Va., and were mustered out November 3 at Camp Patrick Henry.

In the 44 months of the war, the 34th Division had taken part in more than 600 days of combat, the largest number of combat days of any division during World War II.

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World War II lasted almost as long as the four years of the Civil War. Proportionately the state contributed fully as much in



A battered church behind them, the First Platoon, Company C, 135th Infantry Regiment, moves past Salvarc, Italy, on its way to the front.

men and money as it had during the War Between the States.

Minnesota furnished 304,100 men during the Second World War. Of these, 209,500 were in the army and army air corps; 79,300 in the navy; 11,800 in the marine corps and 3,500 in the coast guard.

In the army and air corps, 4,399 Minnesota men died in combat or of wounds; 32 were listed as missing and 382 died in prison camps, according to a report prepared by the adjutant general's office in Washington, D. C.

The story of the navy, marine corps and coast guard during World War II is a stirring account of some of the greatest battles in history - Guadalcanal, the Coral Sea, the North Atlantic. Minnesota men shared in many of them and 1,444 died in combat or of wounds; 30 died in prison camps and 22 were listed as missing, according to a report from the navy department in Washington.

KOREA AND THE MISSILE AGE

With the end of World War II, demobilization again involved the complete reorganization of the Minnesota National Guard.

During the war years, a Minnesota State Guard, similar to the Home Guard of the First World War, had been organized to replace the troops which had left for federal service. Strength of the State Guard was approximately 6,000 men and consisted of two infantry brigades of two regiments each, a service regiment, medical battalion, nurse corps battalion and several auxiliary units. A provisional battalion was on active duty more than 20 months guarding vital industrial and transportation installations in Duluth and on the Iron Range.

Also during these years, a group of civilians, many of them boat-owners, were organized into the Coast Guard Temporary Reserve. Using government picket boats and their own craft, they maintained a 24-hour patrol around dams, bridges and other important installations on the federal waterways of Minnesota--the navigable portions of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers and the Minnesota river upstream as far as Bloomington.

The State Guard served more than five years. Troops were on duty after tornadoes at White Bear Lake, Blue Earth and Fari-bault; after floods in Aitkin County, and during an emergency period after the attack on Pearl Harbor when civilian aircraft were grounded between December 19, 1941, and March 30, 1942.

On October 13, 1946, the war department announced its plans regarding the National Guard whose dual status again was underlined. The National Guard of the United States was "to provide a reserve component of the Army of the United States capable of immediate expansion to war strength, able to furnish units fit for service anywhere in the world..."

The mission of the National Guard of the several states was "to provide sufficient organizations in each state so trained and equipped as to enable them to function efficiently at existing strength in the protection of life and property and the preservation of peace, order and public safety, under competent orders of the state authorities."

During this reorganization period, the 34th Division was re-assigned to Iowa and Nebraska and a new division, the 47th or Viking Division, was organized. North Dakota was to provide one combat team and the rest of the division was to come from Minnesota.

Minnesota's forces also included one anti-aircraft group consisting of headquarters and two AAA battalions, one medical battalion and a quartermaster salvage and repair company, all part of the ground forces; a fighter group (less one squadron), a service group (less one detachment) and an aircraft control and warning squadron, all part of the air forces.

In 1947 the first post-war encampment was held at Camp Ripley. Vigorous recruiting during those early post-war years brought the division's strength up to more than 8,000 men. The medical battalion and the quartermaster salvage and repair company later were withdrawn and a quartermaster truck battalion allotted instead.

The reorganization of the National Guard also ended the Naval Militia in Minnesota, and the United States Naval Reserve took over all units. Naval battalions were organized in Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis, all under the supervision of the commandant of of the Ninth Naval District, Great Lakes, Ill.

On June 25, 1950, the North Koreans marched across the 38th parallel into South Korea. President Truman announced two days later that the United States, as a member of the United Nations, would lend naval and air support to South Korea.

The situation grew rapidly worse, however, and the use of United Nations' troops was authorized. By midsummer, some Organized Reserve and National Guard units were alerted for induction. In Minnesota, Guard units trained, expecting that an alert would soon be forthcoming.

On January 16, 1951, the Viking Division's state flag was ceremonially transferred from the state to the United States and the division was inducted into federal service.

Commanding general was Maj. Gen. Norman E. Hendrickson, a veteran of World War I where he served with the 151st Field Artillery and the chief of staff of the 34th Division during World War II. Assistant division commander was Brig. Gen. Philip C. Bettenburg, who had been an infantry regimental commander in North Africa and Europe during World War II. Brig. Gen. Fritz Peterson, who also had served with the 34th Division during World War I and II, was division artillery commander.

Destination of the Viking Division was Camp Rucker, Ala. In 11 days, 9,000 men from 105 units were transferred to camp from 79 cities in Minnesota and North Dakota. Eight freight trains and 27 passenger trains were used to move troops and equipment. Track vehicles and tanks went by train while motor vehicles traveled the highways.



Arch of steel is formed by men of the 47th Viking Division in training at Camp Rucker, Ala., after the outbreak of the Korean War.

At Camp Rucker the "Vikings" went to work almost immediately to process and assign to units 13,000 draftees who had arrived from Fort Devon, Mass.

The men from Minnesota were not destined to fight together as a unit, however. As the war progressed, the division was split into smaller units for overseas service.

The Air National Guard had been mobilized in its entirety March 1, 1951. Two of the four squadrons of the 133rd Fighter Interceptor Group were from Minnesota--the 109th from St. Paul and the 179th from Duluth. These two squadrons remained at bases in defense of the continental United States but many officers and enlisted men from their ranks saw service overseas.

The 132nd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron from New Brighton was ordered to duty near Wadena, Minn. This squadron has never been returned to state service but has remained in the active service of the federal government



Platoon of "Vikings" marches past one of the barracks at Camp Rucker.

The Minnesota Air National Guard served 21 months during the Korean War and was returned to the state December 1, 1953. The Minnesota National Guard served two years and returned to state control December 16, 1953.

The job of reorganizing the elements of the state's National Guard began again with the end of the war, and today the Guard remains essentially the same as it was after its reorganization following World War II.

Due to the development of military and fire power as the result of World War II, the 12,000-acre Camp Ripley proved to be too small an area for the training of an infantry division. This problem was presented to the state legislature in the years after the war and in 1951 the legislature made available \$700,000 for the expansion of Camp Ripley, increasing the reservation to 45,000 acres.

Currently, the camp is being used by the National Guards of six states—Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska as



A Viking Division bazooka team fires at a tank during training at Camp Rucker.

well as Minnesota. More than 30,000 men undergo field training there each year.

As for Fort Snelling, the former frontier post which still is the symbol of the military in Minnesota is no longer an active army post. However, the fort served its country well as the state's induction center during World War II.

In 1939, the Third United States Infantry Regiment, stationed there for so long, was ordered out and split up. One battalion went to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to serve as the nucleus of the 66th Infantry Division, one went to Greenland and the third to Newfoundland.

As the war progressed the battalion in Newfoundland was built up to regimental strength and returned to Fort Benning, Ga., where it helped train men in officer candidate school. Later, the

Third Regiment was sent to France as a reserve regiment for the Seventh Army but it did not see action. At the end of the war, the regiment took over a number of prison camps around Mainz, Germany, then was sent to Berlin for occupation duty.

Temporarily disbanded, the Third was reactivated at Fort Myers, Va. The regiment's first battle group remains there today where it serves as honor guard for the president of the United States, mounts guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, Va., and is on duty at military funerals.

The regiment's second battle group is in Korea on occupation duty. Today, although the regiment's "old home," Fort Snelling, is not an active post, the military reservation is still very much in use.

Veterans' Administration Headquarters for this area are located there and so is the greatly enlarged and expanded Veterans Hospital. The reservation also is used by the air force and army reserve as a training center.

The regular army, air force, navy and marine corps all have men in Minnesota.

Minneapolis is the headquarters for the XIVth Army Corps (reserve) which serves not only Minnesota but North and South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin as well. Chief work of the corps is the training of the army's ready-reservists. Most of these men, who are active in weekly and summer training sessions, belong to the 103rd Infantry Division with headquarters at Des Moines, Iowa.

Also in the state are other army units which are not part of the XIVth Corps but are responsible instead to Fifth Army headquarters in Chicago. These include the recruiting service, veterinary food inspection service and military police.

The air force maintains tactical, group headquarters of the Continental Air Command and a reserve troop carrier squadron, both based at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The air force also has 12 air reserve squadrons throughout Minnesota for ground training of specialists. The 31st Air Division is responsible for the air defense of the north central states--all of Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, Iowa and Canada. The division maintains a "fence" of radar stations throughout this area which are the "eyes" of air defense here. These are tied in with the Dew Line, Mid-Canada and Pine Tree Warning systems in Canada and northern Minnesota.

The men at Duluth fly jet fighter planes F102 Delta Daggers--carrying Falcon rockets. Fighter groups are based at air fields

throughout the north central states.

At the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the navy and marine air reserves and the air national guard work with the "week-end warriors" who put in a week-end a month plus a two-week active duty tour every year to keep themselves ready for active service. The navy and marine corps fly Panthers (jet fighters), Neptunes (bombers), Skymasters (transports) and Trackers (for anti-submarine warfare), in addition to trainers and the helicopters used for rescue work.

The Minnesota Air National Guard's 133rd Fighter Group still is made up of the 109th Fighter Interceptor Squadron based at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the 179th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Duluth. The 109th flies the F89H Scorpion, an all-weather fighter interceptor aircraft carrying the Falcon air-to-air missile. The 179th flies the F94C Starfire, also equipped with air-to-air rockets.

The coast guard patrols Minnesota's federal waterways with its cutter, Fern, inspecting pleasure craft on the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers and maintaining aids to navigation, such as the channel markers on the rivers. There is a Coast Guard Reserve unit in St. Paul which takes yearly training cruises on the Great Lakes or the Atlantic and a coast guard recruiting office is maintained in Minneapolis.

The Coast Guard Temporary Reserve of World War II has become the Coast Guard Auxiliary whose major project now is the promotion of safe boating.

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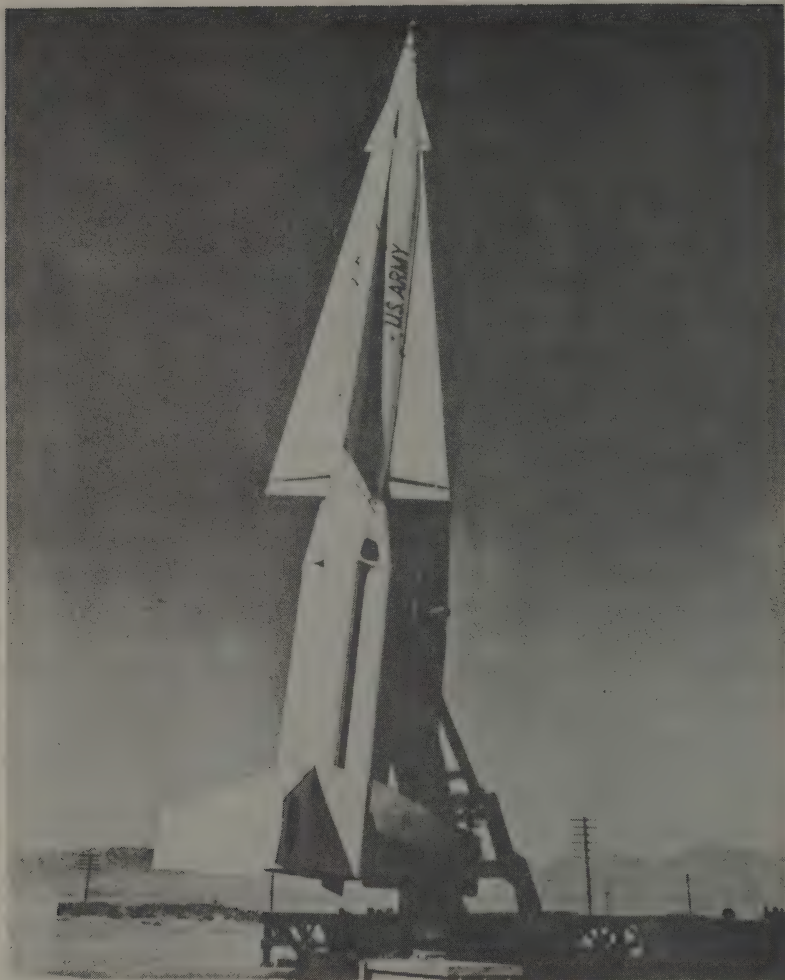
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More than 15,000 Minnesotans have given their lives for their country in the years since 1861. Casualty figures for the Korean War are still incomplete but the St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press for May 11, 1958, gave the following list: 549 Minnesotans killed in action; 296 missing; 1,578 prisoners and 124 injured in accidents.

Disease, chiefly typhoid fever, malaria and yellow fever, took heavy toll during the Civil War and Spanish-American War. By World War II and the Korean conflict, however, deaths from disease had been greatly reduced. The treatment of battle wounds and other injuries also had developed from almost primitive practices to the highly skilled techniques used today. Both are a tribute to the great medical advances of the 20th century.

The 20th century also has brought the missile age. Sometime during Minnesota's centennial summer work is scheduled to begin on four proposed NIKE anti-aircraft defense sites to be located



United States Army Photo

Nike missiles, to be located at four Nike bases ringing the Twin Cities, will bring the missile age to Minnesota sometime during 1958 when work on the bases begins.

around the Twin Cities. In all probability, these will be manned by the artillery branch of the Minnesota National Guard, a nuclear age adaptation of the historic role of the field and coastal artillery.

The men who man the sites, those who thunder over the land in jets and bombers, who train yearly at Camp Ripley, who recruit

for the armed services, who do the infinite number of smaller tasks, are, in a very real sense, the direct heirs of the handful of soldiers who once pastured their cattle near Wold-Chamberlain airfield, and who quarried stone there to make a permanent fort from the temporary wood buildings of Fort Snelling.

MEDAL OF HONOR WINNERS

“Above and beyond the call of duty”

Twenty-seven men from Minnesota have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor since July 12, 1862, when the medal was established by a joint resolution of congress. The medal is awarded in the name of congress “to each person who while an officer or enlisted person of the army shall have distinguished himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty in action involving actual conflict with the enemy.

“The deed performed must have been of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual for gallantry and intrepidity above his or her comrades and must have involved the risk of life.”

The Minnesota Medal of Honor winners, with brief descriptions of their citations, follow:

ALBEE, George E., first lieutenant, 41st United States Infantry, Indian Wars. Attacked with two men a force of 11 Indians, drove them from the hills and reconnoitered the country beyond. Residence: Owatonna.

BIANCHI, Willibald C., first lieutenant, World War II. Gallantry near Bagac, province of Bataan, Philippine Islands, February 3, 1942. Residence: New Ulm.

BURKARD, Oscar, private, hospital corps, army, Indian War. Bravery in action against hostile Indians at Leech Lake, October 5, 1898. Residence: Hay Creek.

CATLIN, Albertus Wright, major, marine corps, Mexico. For distinguished conduct in battle at Veracruz, April 22, 1914. Born in Gowanda, New York. Appointed from Minnesota.

COLALILLO, Mick, private first class, World War I. For gallantry in action defending Drabenderhohe, Germany. Residence: Duluth.

COURTNEY, Henry Alexis, Jr., major, marine corps, World War II. For conspicuous gallantry at the risk of his life at Okinawa Shima on May 14-15, 1945. Residence: Duluth.

CUKELA, Louis, sergeant, marine corps, World War I. For heroism at Forest de Retz, France, July 18, 1918. Residence: Minneapolis.

DYER, Jesse Farley, captain, marine corps, World War I. For distinguished conduct in battle of Veracruz, April 21-22, 1914. Residence: St. Paul.

FLEMING, Richard E., captain, marine corps reserve, World War II. For heroism above call of duty at battle of Midway, June 4-5, 1942. Residence: St. Paul.

HAUGE, Louis James, Jr., corporal, marine corps reserve, World War II. For gallantry against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima, May 14, 1945. Residence: Ada.

HAWKS, Lloyd C., private first class, army, World War II. For gallantry near Carana, Italy, January 30, 1944. Residence: Park Rapids.

HIGGINS, Eli L., captain, army, Indian Wars. Surprised the Indians in their strong position and fought them until dark with great boldness. Residence: Minnesota.

JOHNSON, John, private, Company D, Second Wisconsin Infantry, Civil War. Conspicuous gallantry in battle in which he was severely wounded. Residence: Rochester.

KRAUSE, Richard Edward, private first class, marine corps reserve, World War II. For conspicuous gallantry against enemy Japanese forces on Peleliu, Palau. Residence: Minnesota.

LA BELLE, James Dennis, private first class, marine corps reserve, World War II. For conspicuous gallantry during seizure of Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands March 1945. Residence: Minneapolis.

LINDBERG, Charles A., captain, army air corps. For displaying heroic courage and skill as a navigator by his nonstop flight in the "Spirit of St. Louis," from New York to Paris. Residence: Little Falls.

MALLON, George H., captain, army, World War I. For heroism at Bois-de-Forges, France, September 26, 1918. Residence: Minneapolis.

MORGAN, George H., second lieutenant, army, Indian Wars. For gallantry. He held his ground at a critical moment and fired upon the advancing enemy (hostile Indians) until himself disabled by a shot, at Big Dry Fork, Ariz., July 18, 1882. Residence: Minneapolis.

NELSON, Oscar Frederick, machinist's mate, navy, aboard USS Bennington, 1905. For extraordinary heroism displayed at the time of the explosion of a boiler of that vessel at San Diego, Calif., July 21, 1905. Residence: Minneapolis.

O'BRIEN, Henry D., corporal, Company E, First Minnesota Infantry. Gallantry at Gettysburg, Pa., July 3, 1863. Residence: St. Anthony Falls.

PICKLE, Alonzo H., sergeant, army, Civil War. Gallantry in action at Deep Bottom, Va., August 14, 1864. Residence: Dover.

RUD, George William, chief machinist's mate, navy. For extraordinary heroism while attached to the USS Memphis during a hurricane while anchored off Santo Domingo City August 29, 1916. Residence: Minneapolis.

RUDOLPH, Donald E., second lieutenant, army, World War II. For heroism at Munoz, Luzon, the Philippines, February 5, 1945. Residence: Minneapolis.

SHERMAN, Marshall, private, First Minnesota Infantry, Civil War. Capture of flag of 58th Virginia Infantry at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863. Residence: St. Paul.

SORENSEN, Richard Keith, private, marine corps reserve, World War II. For conspicuous gallantry during battle of Namur Island, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands, February 1-2, 1944. Residence: Anoka.

TRACY, John, private, army, Indian Wars. Bravery in action with Indians at Chiricahua Mountains, Ariz. Residence: St. Paul.

VALE, John, private, army, Civil War. Bravery at Nolensville, Tenn., February 15, 1863. Residence: Rochester.

CIVIL WAR ENGAGEMENTS

Minnesota troops, all told, probably took part in at least a hundred engagements, large and small, during the Civil War. In many of them several of the state's organizations served together. Here, arranged in chronological order, is a list of 38 of the more important engagements and campaigns with their dates and the Minnesota units taking part.

First Battle of Bull Run, July,
1861, 1st Minn. Infantry

Mill Springs Campaign, January,
1862, 2nd Minn. Infantry

Fort Donelson Campaign,
February, 1862, Brackett's
Battalion of Cavalry

Siege of Corinth, April, 1862,
2nd, 4th, 5th Minn. Infantry,
Brackett's Battalion of Cavalry,
1st Battery Light Artillery

Battle of Shiloh, April, 1862,
Brackett's Battalion of Cavalry,
1st Battery Light Artillery

Peninsula Campaign, May and
June, 1862, 1st Minn. Infantry,
2nd Co. Minn. Sharpshooters

Surrender at Murfreesboro, July,
1862, 3rd Minn. Infantry

Perryville Campaign, October,
1862, 2nd Minn. Infantry, 2nd
Battery Light Artillery

Second Battle of Fort Donelson,
August, 1862, Brackett's
Battalion of Cavalry

Battle of Iuka, September, 1862,
4th, 5th Minn. Infantry

Battle of Antietam, September,
1862, 1st Minn. Infantry, 2nd
Co. Minn. Sharpshooters

Battle of Corinth, October,
1862, 4th, 5th Minn. Infantry,
1st Battery Light Artillery

Third Battle of Fort Donelson,
February, 1863, Brackett's
Battalion of Cavalry

Tulahoma Campaign, 1863,
Brackett's Battalion of Cavalry

Battles of Fredericksburg,
December, May, 1863, 1st Minn.
Infantry, 2nd Co. Minn.
Sharpshooters

Battle of Chancellorsville,
May, 1863, 1st Co. Minn.
Sharpshooters

Battle of Gettysburg, July,
1863, 1st Minn. Infantry, 2nd
Co. Minn. Sharpshooters

Siege of Vicksburg, July, 1863,
3rd, 4th, 5th Minn. Infantry,
1st Battery Light Artillery

Battle of Chickamauga,
September, 1863, 2nd Minn.
Infantry, 2nd Battery Light
Artillery

Battle of Chattanooga, November,
1863, 4th Minn. Infantry

Battle of Missionary Ridge,
November, 1863, 2nd Minn.
Infantry, 2nd Battery Light
Artillery

Occupation Duty, Helena and
Little Rock, Ark., 1863-4, 3rd,
6th Minn. Infantry

Battle of Fitzhugh's Woods,
March, 1864, 3rd Minn. Infantry

Red River Expedition, March,
April, May, 1864, Battle of
Chicot, 5th Minn. Infantry

Battle of Guntown, June, 1864,
9th Minn. Infantry

Battles of the Wilderness,
Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor,
spring, 1864, 2nd Co. Minn.
Sharpshooters

Battle of Tupelo, June, 1864,
5th, 7th, 9th, 10th Minn. Infantry

Atlanta Campaign, June, 1864,
2nd Minn. Infantry, 1st Battery
Light Artillery

Siege of Petersburg, June, 1864,
2nd Co. Minn. Sharpshooters,
1st Minn. Battalion Volunteer
Infantry

Battle of Altonna, July, 1864,
4th Minn. Infantry

Price Pursuit, September, 1864,
5th, 7th, 9th, 10th Minn. Infantry

Battle of Nashville, December,
1864, 5th, 7th, 9th, 10th Minn.
Infantry

Battle of Murfreesboro,
December, 1864, 8th Minn.
Infantry, 2nd Battery Light
Artillery

Expedition to Wilmington, Del.,
January, 1865, 8th Minn. Infantry

Battle of Bentonville, March,
1865, 2nd Minn. Infantry

March Through Georgia, March,
1865, 2nd, 4th Minn. Infantry
1st Battery Light Artillery

Battle of Kinston, March, 1865,
8th Minn. Infantry

Expedition to New Orleans,
Dauphin Island, Mobile Bay,
Montgomery, Ala., February -
April, 1865, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th,
10th Minn. Infantry

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